

THE INDEPENDENT

Anna Pavord: Confessions of a



The good, the bad and the Pitts FILM REVIEWS, P11

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW



Stop the feuding, MPs tell Blair

LABOUR MPS delivered a stern warning to Tony Blair last night that cabinet ministers must "get their act together" and stop the faction-fighting that has provoked the biggest crisis since Labour woo power:

The blunt message was given to the Prime Minister at a private Commons meeting with leaders of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), "It is very serious; we just cannot go on like this," one senior MP said.

The attack came as Gordon Brown admitted that ministers had been acting as though they were still in opposition

Political Editor

rather than in government.But in a pep-talk for officials at Labour's My bank headquarters, the C' .ellor insisted the Governo . could now draw a

tulip maniac FRONT

he crisis. V._en the Cabinet meets today for the first time since the Government's "black Christmas," Mr Blair is expected to reinforce the backbench demands for unity and discipline. He will order ministers to concentrate on fulfilling Labour's

alienating many MPs and ministers, including his deputy John Prescott, by pressing ahead with his plans to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats. A meeting of the cabinet committee attended by senior Liberal Democrats this afternoon will discuss a common foreign and defence policy for Europe - the first time its work has extended beyond constitutional reform. In future, the

single currency. Yesterday's meeting of the

Lib-Lab committee may also

debate welfare reform and the

chance to vent their anger over the recent ministerial feuding. Gwyneth Dunwoody, who became an MP in 1966, said: "This is the most disciplined PLP I have ever been a member of It is a pity that the same level of discipline is not being shown by some individuals in the Government.

Kevin Barron, the MP for Rother Valley, said he had discussed the Government's actions with 50 members of his constituency party, who were all "extremely disappointed" at what had happened. Clive

Soley, the chairman of the PLP. called on the Cabinet to show "self-discipline", which had not been demonstrated in the past

Peter Mandelson, who resigned over his £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, former paymastergeneral attended the meeting as a backbencher for the first time since the general election.

Labour MPs later urged Mr Blair to abandon any plans to give the former trade secretary an early recall to the Cabinet. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said: "The party has

been hruised and our reputation has been damaged by this incident. Nobody wants to have a witch-hunt against Peter Mandelson personally. He has been a very able minister and has contributed a great deal to our party. But that impression of sleaze is there and he has to have at least a couple of years on the back benches and one hopes that that is a

very fruitful period." Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's "cabinet enforcer", yesterday insisted there was no chance of Mr Mandelsoo making a swift return to office: "I

don't think he's going to be back in the Government in the near mocked Mr Blair as "St Tony, future," he said. The Prime Minister also offered little hope of an early comeback when he told BBC Radio 5 Live: "The future is going to have to look after itself. I do not give any guarantees, any commitments

William Hague told Mr Blair in the Commons that recent events had been a disgrace. "While the NHS has been in crisis, personal feuds have taken the place of political principle, personal loans have taken the place of political priorities,"

the Angel of Islington" after it was disclosed that the Prime Minister had visited St Thomas' Hospital at Westminster to talk

to nurses the previous night. Mr Blair admitted there were "still huge problems in the health service" but argued that it was impossible to "put right 20 years of neglect in schools and health in 20 months".

Hospital visit, page 2 Leading article. Review page 3 David Aaronovitch, Review page 3

Shares dive worldwide in new panic

BY DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

THE WORLD'S financial markets plunged into chaos yesterday, just two days after central bankers meeting in Hong Kong had prematurely toasted the end of the global economic crisis that started in Asia 18 months ago.

Two of the biggest emerging economies, Brazil and China, separately moved closer to the they owe to Western banks and investors: Share prices dived in London, New York and other main stock markets in panicstricken conditions.

President Bill Clinton was briefed on the financial emergency by Robert Rubin, the US Steasury Secretary Larry Summers, his deputy and the architect of the recent Brazilian and Asian financial rescues, cancelled all his appointments to deal with the crisis.

Brazil abandoned the defence of its currency yesterday, causing its central bank governor to resign, in breach of the terms of the \$41.5bn international bailout agreed with the International Monetary Fund before Christmas. The decision to devalue came in response to the massive flight of capital



from Brazil, amounting to some \$8bn since the beginning of last month, and well over \$1bn a day in the past two days.

The move will cause heated recriminations amongst ministers from the leading G7 economies. With finance ministers and central bankers due to meet in Bonn next month, and deputy finance ministers meeting this weekend, the global crisis has returned to haunt them just as they had begun to hope that their own economies would escape unscathed.

For the American administration, in particular, the economic outlook - and voter approval of President Clinton depends on a buoyant stock market keeping consumers spending and businesses hiring staff.



Traders on the floor of the Bovespa in Sao Paulo yesterday, when Brazil came close to financial meltdown and devalued its currency

We have a strong interest in seeing Brazil, with whom we have worked on so many important things around the world, carry forward with its economic reform plan and succeed," the President said yesterday. "We certainly hope that

among emerging economies, might default on some of its debts or make Western investments worth far less by devaluing its currency. Yesterday, Guangdong Enterprises, a gov-

fear that China, the giant neighbouring Hong Kong, revealed that it had dehts

amounting to almost \$3bn. Investors had been willing to overlook the weak financial position of these businesses, ranging from construction to

But concerns about Brazil ernment holding company for brewing because they assumed yesterday were dwarfed by the businesses in the province the state would guarantee repayments. Now they are being

asked to delay calling in loans and to invest new capital. Markets crash, page 16 Business outlook, page 17 Analysis, page 19 Hamish McRae, page 19

been shown the report is 1m-

derstood to have protested to

the Government that the chil-

dren placed in its care were

more disruptive and from more

damaged backgrounds than

they had been led to expect. A government official said:

"Rebound should apologise for

the mistakes they have made.

They skimped on the staff and they skimped on the building

But the jail's management

of the children not continued to

repeat long-held habits of ab-

sconding and violence.

Inacio Teixeira/AP WHO WOULD PAY twice as much TO CALL A MOBILE PHONE?



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Yemenis free kidnap Briton

JOHN BROOKE, the British oil- By JOHN DAVISON AND worker kidnapped in Yemen, is due to be reunited with his wife this morning, having been released vesterday by his captors. He was taken hostage by

tribesmen on Saturday night from the oil installation in the oorth of the country where he was working as an engineer. His release came as three Islamic guerrillas were put on trial for kidnapping 16 Western

tourists last month. Four of the hostages, including three Britons, died during a rescue attempt by Yemeni security forces on 29 December. The guerrilla leaders yes-

terday admitted seizing the

Heath disclosures

Sir Edward Heath is to

his business interests.

Urban decay report

among worst in Europe.

Britain's cities are

Home P2

Home P3

make a "clean breast" of

INSIDE THIS SECTION

ANDREW BUNCOMBE

against Iraq. News that this latest hostage crisis was over came after Mr

Brooke, 46, had been flown by heliconter from an unknown location to the capital, Sansa. He was taken to the Interior Ministry where he was handed over to the British ambassador. is true." Mr Brooke then called his

wife, Katherine. Her first reaction was that she was "totally elated" at the successful end to the abduction. Last night, speaking from the couple's home near Norwich, she added: tourists, saying that they were "I am excited, but nervously so. charge. taken in revenge for the British I need to be able to see him to Gang leaders confess, page 4



John Brooke: Totally elated' to be free

kidnappers originally demanded the release of a fellow tribesman who was arrested by the Yemeni authorities three mooths ago on a murder

Damning verdict on

reassure myself that the news

Sears bid likely

stalking Sears, still

plans a formal bid

Business P16

Sport P28

Philip Green, the tycoon

to leave Crystal Palace.

first private child jail

There were no details of how the crisis was solved. The

months later it was visited by

Comment P3

BRITAIN'S FIRST privately run BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent children's jail is badly designed, poorly managed and employs staff with inadequate experi-

ence, according to a scathing report by government inspec-tors to be published today. The Home Office minister Paul Boateng will use the report

to issue a stinging rebuke to Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary that runs the jail. The Medway Secure Trainng Centre in Kent has had a

troubled history since it opened last April to cater for persistent offenders aged 12 to 14. The centre was the scene of rioting in June and three

spectorate, who were said to be deeply concerned. Some of the weapons used by the young rioters were pieces

of metal and plaster that had been easily prized from the building. The report is understood to criticise the jail's management for the high turnover of staff, 30

of whom have left since the centre opened. It is also expected to highlight the failure of the centre to ensure that the child inmates were given the agreed amount of education and physical

are believed to have told inspectors that Medway was designed exactly to agreed specifications, which would have been sufficient had many

Rebound, which has already

a team from the Department of Health's Social Security In-

David Aaronovitch Mary Kaldor Why we must send in Why the "Mandelson for Prime Minister" conspiracy is nonsense in Kosovo

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Pani Vallely Bradford's Muslims Terry Venables looks set In praise of Mrs Cook and vindictive wives

Robbed by car crash "I know I will never recover from the deaths troops to stop the killing of my two childreo" Features P9 Comment P4

> Virginia Ironside Dilemma: Is it OK for Features P9



materials."

10 years after Rushdie men to kiss each other? Features P8

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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD. ... 90 BFr Czech Republic....... 112 K France

European Commission

is likely to cling to power

after last-minute threat

mpeachment trial

Clinton breaks silence

on eve of Senate trial

Foreign P11

Foreign P13

MARK STEEL CLASS WAR AT THE

EPLUS MUSIC, **ARCHITECTURE &**

BOAT SHOW

SCIENCE

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IN STHE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'I know you're incredulous. From rambling to runway -am I nuts? What about my cellulite? My glasses?'

JANET STREET-PORTER: DIARY OF A CATWALK MODEL

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OLT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STLEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCEEVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUT ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

PM attacked over private visit to wards

TONY BLAIR disclosed vester- By COLIN BROWN day he had been on a Princess Diana-style visit to a hospital casualty ward to find out for himself about the stress facing overworked nurses coping with

hour-long unannounced visit to St Thomas's hospital opposite the House of Commons before giving a clear signal at Prime Minister of making Question Time that the nurses can expect an inflation-husting pay increase to tackle nurse

The Prime Minister's official spokesman appeared to con-tradict Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, who last week admitted that the NHS was in crisis over the extra pressures caused by the flu outhreak. "He did not come away thinking that the health service is in crisis," said the

That may have risked repeating history with headlines saying: "Crisis - what crisis?" Twenty years ago, James Callaghan returned from hut Mr Blair later revealed on

Chief Political Correspondent

same headlines after dismissing an economic crisis, and went on to lose the general elecsoaring numbers of patients tion. But a hospital spokessuffering from the flu outbreak. woman said: "To be perfectly The Prime Minister spoke to honest, we are not in crisis here. nurses and patients during the It has been very busy, but we are coping. It is no worse than it was last year." Nursing unions accused the

> "empty promises" on pay and insisted there was a crisis. Liane Venner, Unison deputy head of health for the London area, said: "I think the fact that the Prime Minister has visited a hospital is a sign that the Government is taking the issue seriously hut he cannot say there is no crisis. "Ask any hospital nurse who is working very, very long hours for very, very low pay in an overstretched hospital and they will tell you there is a crisis."

The visit had been kept secret from all but the management of the hospital, who were told 24 hours before his arrival. Guadeloupe and earned the BBC Radio Five Live that he

where Florence Nightingale aunched nurse training - because he wanted to see what it was like on the 'front line'. "I went myself to a hospital last night and visited the accident and emergency department and talked to some of the nurses there," he said. "And what they told me was very, very clear. Demands are rising the whole time and they don't think they have the people to cope with it. I am well aware of the problem and I can tell you I am

going to address it."

William Hague, the Tory leader, poured scorn on Mr Blair's visit, ridiculing the Prime Minister as "St Tony of Islington", raising comparisons with Diana, Princess of Wales, who was in the habit of making secret late-night visits to hospital wards, including the operating theatre, and visited St Thomas's on at least three occasions. Nurses warned against empty promises on pay. "Promises are not good enough. They are no good to a nurse working long hours for next to nothing," said the Unison spokeswoman.

Parliament, page



This orphan pygmy hippo makes her public debut at Whipsnade wild animal park where she is doing well being raised by keepers after her mother died during an emergency Caesarean four weeks ago Fiona Hanson

Downing Street prize draw leaves Labour in the lurch

A SIGHTSEEING trip to Down- BY FRAN ABRAMS ing Street was offered to Westminster Correspondent Labour supporters as a prize in a fund-raising draw.

residence had been opened up to visitors.

A Labour spokeswoman claimed that any MP could now take constituents into No 10 under government plans to improve public access, hut Downing Street said there was no such facility.

Labour supporters in Liverfor a coach trip to the House of could take groups inside No 10,

The trip was advertised for and wine included. The protoday but was cancelled amid ceeds were to go to Fresh Start pparent confusion over for Liverpool, a campaign to get whether the Prime Minister's Labour re-elected to the city council, and 12 "lucky winners" of a prize draw would be giveo a tour of Downing Street.

Jane Kennedy, the Liverpool Wavertree MP who organised the event, said she cancelled it when she saw the leastet advertising the trip because the prize draw idea added by party

LIGHTING UP

4.27pm 4.21pm 4.29pm 4.13pm

HIGH TIDES

Moderate Good Good

SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE

8.11am 8.09am 8.35am 8.00am 8.18am

raising. "It was just a mistake . there was nothing sinister.

A Labour spokeswoman said any constituency MP could take invited guests inside Number 10's state rooms, including Downing Street spokeswoman the Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker, who wrote to Tony Blair when he heard about the trip, asking when he could take

a group from his party. "He is more than welcome at any time to take Liberal Democrat activists or anybody at all who wants to go into Downing Street," the spokeswoman staff was "not appropriate". said. "If he rings up the politipool had been invited to pay \$40 She said she believed MPs cal office and says he would like to take people round they can

though not for party fund- organise it. We were clear that we wanted Downing Street to be a lot more accessible ... It is a public building and this is giving it back to the state."

She was contradicted by a who said MPs were not entitled to take groups round, but they could take people to have their pictures taken outside the door if they asked the police in advance. "As far as we are coocerned no such tour was planned and no such tour would be allowed. It is not permissihle to use the premises for party fund-raising," she said.

Mr Baker said the idea was

Heath to register all his interests

BY ANDREW GRICE

SIR EDWARD Heath is to make a "clean breast" of his business interests after allegations that he has hreached the rules under which MPs must disclose their work outside Parliament. In a surprise U-turn, the

former Tory prime minister is to amend his entry in the MPs' Register of Interests, revealing four new paid jobs in the new list to be published in March.

However, Sir Edward's rethink will not head off an investigation by Elizabeth Filkin, the Commons standards watchdog who takes up her post next month. Her office has written to Fraser Kemp, a Labour backbencher, saying an inquiry will be launched into Sir Edward's case following a complaint hy the MP.

In his current entry in the register, Sir Edward, the longest-serving MP in the House, the only outside post listed is his chairmanship of Dumpton Gap, an unlimited private company.

His new entry will state that he is also a senior adviser to Cosco UK, the British branch of the China Ocean Shipping Company, owned by the Chinese government, a member of the advisory group of the China Index Fund Ltd, run by the insurance group Commercial General Union; an international adviser to Praemium Imperiale, a major arts award backed by Japanese husinessmen; and a member of the governing board of the Centre for Global Energy Studies, a London-based think-tank set up by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi petroleum minister.

The former prime minister has always argued that he did not need to list the four posts not acting in his capacity as an MP when acting as a paid adviser to them. He is said to take seriously the criticism that has been made of his behaviour, but remains confident that he has not breached Commons rules.

Lawyers to speak for Chile THE CHILEAN government will A decision that the general

he represented at the new law lords hearing into whether General Augusto Pinochet should face extradition to Spain.

The government in Santiago, which wants the former dictator to be freed, was given permission yesterday to make submissions at the hearing, due to start next week. It will will the civil rights groups eral Pinochet's lawyers.

BY KIM SENGUPTA

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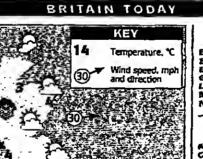
erves the right to decline to

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which want General Pinochet tried.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the chairman at yesterday's Lords hearing, confirmed The Independent's report that a senior law lord had stepped down due to start next week. It will from the new panel to judge the have the right to "intervene", as

does not have immunity from prosecution was set aside by fellow law lords because of Lord Hoffmann's failure to declare his links with Amnesty.

The Independent reported esterday that Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, was not included in the new panel after the general's legal team objected to his fund-raising links with Amnesty. Leading article, Review page 3



SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Isolated wintry showe and a few sunny spells; it will then cloud over bringing rain and hith-snow. A strong to gale force west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-4C (37-39F).

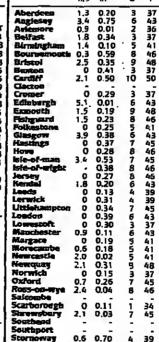
it will turn milder in the south and windy across the country with heavy rain spreading south-eastwards. Overnight cam may linger into Saturday morning in the south-east. The rest of the country will turn colder with showers and sunny spells.

London: A12 Green Man Roumdabout, Leylunstone, Major roadworks on new M11 ink road. Unit 31st December. Cambridgeahlite A10 between Foxton and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Shepreth M81. Und 14th February. Britsol: M3 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonndub Bridge. Unit 22nd June 2001. Lamesshire: M8 Between J27 Standish and J28 Leyland. Roadworks; controllow and a SUmph speed limit ether side of Chamock Richard Services. Unit 15th February. Greater Manchaster: A57. Narrow lanes Manchester-bound, due to Meppink con-

struction work, Unit 28th February, South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Visduct (A5109) & J34 Tinsley Visduct (A8178), Shelfield, Carriageway raduced to 2 lanes southbound, Unit 21st November 2000, Durnifries and Gallowing: A74 between Seathos, and J18 Americans.

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Source: The Met, Office, Calls tharged at YESTERDAY EXTREMES

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COME RAIN OR SHINE...

EXTREME WINTER conditions in Florida have hampered efforts by researchers to compile a list of the eodangered manatees in the region. The first manatee census this year has logged only 1,873 "sea-cows", a drop of 150 on last year.

Marine biologists are hoping that the weather is masking the census rather than an increase in the numbers killed by boats. Last year was the third worst on record for man-



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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Run-down, sprawling and decayed. Are our cities the worst in Europe?

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

BRITAIN'S CITTES are among the worst in Europe and face the threat of falling into runaway decay. That vision was outlined yesterday by Lord Rogers of Riverside, now the nation's most influential architect, in a report to the Governmeot.

The key to preventing such a fate lies in the hands of the middle classes, who are leaving cities to seek a better life. If this continues and owner-occupied suburbs continue to sprawl out into the countryside, there is a danger of entire neighbourhoods becoming deserted. The solution, says Lord Rogers, would be compact, attractive urban quarters where people can walk to the shops, work and play. But this will work only if the middle classes can be persuaded once again to live near the centre instead of in "soulless, alienated" suburbs.

Sharing the Vision, produced by the Urban Task Force, which is made up of figures from the development industry, big city councils and academia, says the threat of further decline comes partly from concentrations of poverty in the big cities, bringing crime, disorder and family breakdown.

Lord Rogers, the taskforce chairman, said: "We have seen a worsening of the quality of life in our cities. They have fallen from near the top of the European league to near the bottom. Bad cities brutalise people and they wish to escape from

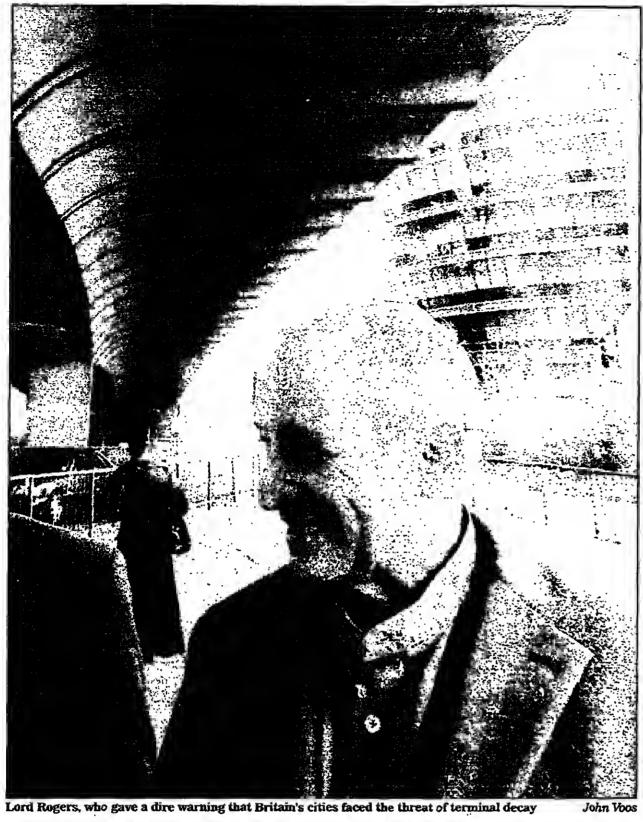
Council and housing association homes for low-income tenants must mix with owneroccupied housing. "We want a situation where you can't see the difference between social and market housing," said Lord Rogers, designer of the Millennium Dome.

Britain's planners, archltects and developers are also at fault for the dismal state of Britain's cities. "There is quite clearly a lack of skills," he said. "I'm particularly conscious of this when I go abroad - there has been a general runningdown of our skills. We must move away from the Idea that. building is a matter of making a fast buck."

Averting the creation of urban ghettos comes at a high price. "An urban renaissance is not going to come easily or cheaply," says the report. Sweeping changes in taxation, legislation and Britain's antiurban culture will be needed. "The Government, in partnership with the private sector, is going to have to do much

Part of the answer is "to drastically limit suburban sprawl and out-of-town development", says the interim report. It welcomes moves already made in this direction. hut says: "Much more needs to be done to make it harder and more expensive to develop out of town." Public transport should be favoured above the car "to minimise pollution and

Lord Rogers and the task-



recommendations. There is intense debate within the group

about what these should be. But they will certainly include new ways of raising finance for urban regeneration. such as tax-breaks for developers, and changes in compulsory purchase powers for councils to make it easier for them to buy blighted land for redevelopment. The taskforce is also expected to recommend new incentives for owning and restoring homes in urban areas, although it denied reports that it favoured removing the tax relief on mortgages for

homes built on greenfield sites. The report says the bad reputation of inner-city state schools are identified as one of the key factors driving home owners out of inner cibes. But it also concludes there is a deep seated anti-urban culture. "The English are an urban people who prefer to live in a mock-up of the coun-

will say little about their final tryside." Up to 5 million extra new greenfield housing devel homes are needed over the next 25 years, mainly because people are living longer and spending more years living alone. The task force believes most, but not all, of these will have to be built within existing towns and cities, in ways that enhance rather than overcrowd them. Lord Rogers said about a third would probably have to be built on greenfield sites. The report warns that a mass of new housing was "urbanism on a mega-scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the

countryside". John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the kind of cities the taskforce envisaged would have a much-improved environment and far fewer

problems of poverty. But he was attacked by the Council for the Protection of Rural England(CPRE), represented on the taskforce, for

opments. Tony Burton, of the council, said: "The taskforce is being undermined by continuing allocation of greenfield sites for thousands of new houses. and the Government's failure lo support reduced house-building plans in pressured areas of rural England."

Tonight Lord Rogers flies to the Netherlands with Mr Prescott. He will be showing the Deputy Prime Minister some examples of Dutch urban regeneration, which he believes are far in advance of British practice.

Yesterday Mr Prescott warmly welcomed the report, the final version of which will be produced later this year along side a long list of recommen-

What remains to be seeo is whether the Treasury and 10 Downing Street will rise to the challenge of making suburban

URBAN LIFE IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE

Population: 416.000 (city). 1,963,941 (conurbation)

Public transport: Three high-speed train stations, international airport, metro

New developments: Expanding conference centre, new Hilton hotel and casino, plan to divert major motorway around city, planned museum of technology.

Deprivation: High unemployment and poverty in high-rise suburbs around city.

1.963941 people in France's second city cannot be wrong came in October, when the Mayor of Lyon, Raymond Barre, asked to borrow 100m francs (£10m) for improvements. In two weeks all "Lyon 2000" bonds had been bought.

Yet, according to a survey by the council, most Lyonnais believe they pay too much tax to an ill-organised adminis-

THE LATEST proof that the tration, And, in common with most Continental metropolises, the concept of inner-city deprivation is unknown on the bourgeois streets of Lyon, which has a metro and buses. three high-speed train stations and plans for trams.

> The trouble is in the suburbs: greater Lyon has some of the most violent high-rise slums in France, where unemployment reaches 25 per cent among second-genera-

tion North African youths. The average joblessness figure

for Lyon is 12 per cent. Twinned with Birmingham since 1951. Lyon is only now losing the 's' which for years inexplicably plagued its ending in English orthography.

This summer, as part of an ever-improving partnership between the cities, "Lyon Week" will be held in Birm-

ALEX DUVAL SMITH



BIRMINGHAM

Population: Birmingham City - 989,000. West Midlands conurbation - 2.7 million.

Public transport: InterCity train service. International airport. Suburban railway network. In spring a £145m section of its overground metro opens. Buses.

New developments: international Convention Centre, Symphony Hall.

Deprivation: England's fifth most deprived council area, after Liverpool, Newham (in London), Manchester and Hackney.

BIRMINGHAM'S CITY centre has been transformed by ambitious and highly praised new developments during the Nineties.

But its council admits that Britain's second city still has a long way to go. The core is largely surrounded by run down inner city wards where

poverty is concentrated. According to a recent Gov-

fifth most deprived council area in England.

The upwardly mobile still tend to move out of Birmingham if they can and yet, compared to other blg British cities, such as Liverpool and Glasgow, Birmingham's population has declined much less rapidly, and its problems of deprivation are not as severe.

There is a boom in city cenernment report, it ranks as the tre living, with thousands of

new apartments being built. The council is teaming up with developers to erase the worst of the grim Sixties developments. And it is breaking through the "concrete collar" of the Inner ring road which cut Birmingham's centre off from the rest of the city. The hope is that this regeneration can spread into the run down neighbourhoods beyond.

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Even our poorest areas have sense of civic pride

SINCE WRITING Cities for a Small Planet Lord Rogers has taken to wearing bicycle clips during lectures. It gets everyone's attention when he points out that when cars overrun the city we will not be able to breathe properly, let alone travel anywhere. His favourite slide at these lectures shows small boys playing football on a grassed-over street between rows of terraced houses.

So Lord Rogers comes from a very special position when, as chairman of the Government's Urban Task Force, he claims that "the overall quality of life in English cities has been diminishing for a long time and compares very poorly with other European cities".

John Gummer, former environment secretary, would not agree. "It's a very difficult case to uphold," he says. "First of all English homes have significantly greater space than Continental homes - a third again. The anecdotal evidence is simple. When we went to look at British council-owned property in the last government we as-



NIESEWAND

sumed one spare bedroom was one other country in Europe would accept that. Or as much garden space."

Even poor boroughs have a the residents of Hackney in north-east London, with their contemporary art studios and galleries, that they are living in an ugly, sprawling area. Or the residents of nearby Tower Hamlets that they do not have a neighbourhood

Newcastle is now so fashionable that advertising agencies try out new products on the locals. Tell the residents that of dwellings currently in Lon-country."

they would be better off living in Lyons. There isn't a Geordie who would swop.

time when Britain is seen as the hottest - or coolest, depending on your terminology - country in Europe. The Netherlands shaped up

much better than Britain when Lord Rogers took a fact-finding tour there. What impressed him was a mix of low-income families living in two-storey homes mixed with larger apartproper for each household. Not ment blocks around a square which doubles as school playground. He was also impressed by the "high" level of rehabilitation of older terraced propsense of civic pride. Try telling erties, as well as Amsterdam's car-free housing programme. And the key to it all, says Lord Rogers, is quality not quantity, which upholds that old egalitarian modernist maxim "less

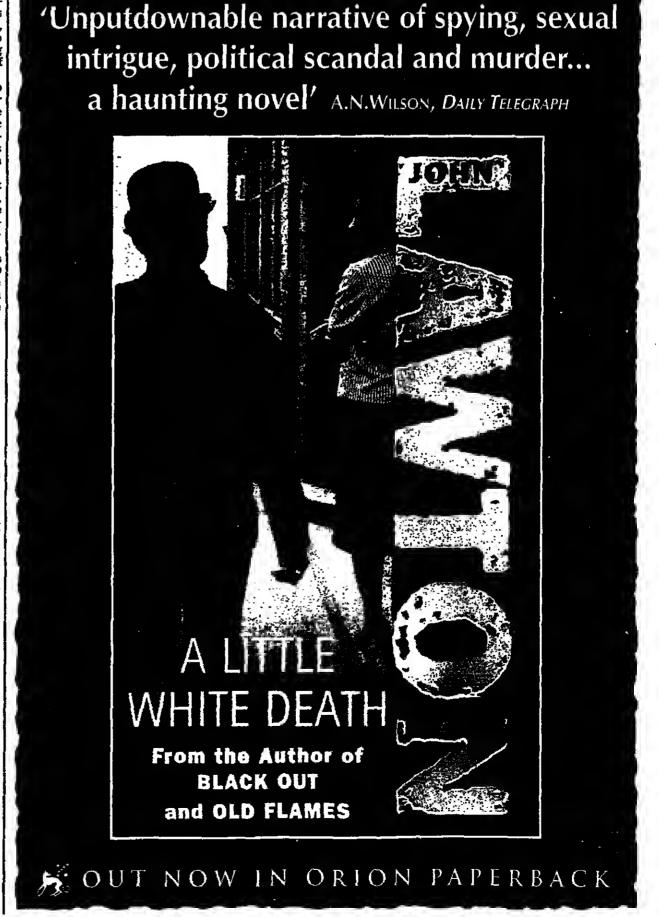
> is more" Yet the Urban Task Force has to advise the Government which needs more than 4 million new households by 2016. That is about twice the number

those of Milton Keynes. This is urbanism on a mega

This doomwatch comes at a scale which, if not well planned, could destroy both existing towns and the countryside," the Urban Task Force warns. So they are looking at regeneraling city centres which, it is true, are bleaker than their European counterparts.

When technological change emptied textile mills and telephone exchanges, factories and warehouses in our post-industrial cities, we let them rot. In Paris they turned them into chic loft-living with a fashionable address. Entrepreneurial is French for far-nighted. The new Tate Gallery at

Bankside in London will be housed in the old power station 25 years after the French put their impressionist collection inside an old train shed at the Quai d'Orsay. But then, as John Gummer says: "Success in France is measured by having an address in the hest orrondissement in Paris. In Britain it's a vicarage in the



Kidnap gang leader confesses

BY FRANK GARDNER in Aden

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can't

resist a

bargain"

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THE LEADER of the militant Islamist kidnappers who seized 16 Western tourists in Yemen last month admitted in court yesterday kidnapping them and using them as buman shields. He boasted that he "abducted the infidels because their gov-ernments attacked Muslims

ndiscriminately". Britons Ruth Williamson, 34, Margaret Whitehouse, 52, Peter Rowe, 60 and Australian Andrew Thirsk, 35, were killed in

Zein al-Abidine al-Mihdar also known as Abu Hassan - the leader of the group, and the brothers Ahmed Mohammed Atif and Saad Mohammed Atif, were charged with kidnapping in a heavily guarded Yemeni

Far from denying the charge of kidnap, which carries the death penalty in Yemen, Mr Al-Mihdar shouted defiantly that his group had done everything in the name of God and that he had no regrets.

The Yemeni authorities were clearly nervous that some of the thousands of well-armed supporters that Mr Al-Mihdar claims to have would choose this moment to spring him from captivity.

The tiny Yemeni coastal town of Zinjibar had never seen such a display of security. In the bustling market place, where camels ambled past veiled women who sat around in the heat, uniformed police were spaced at 50-yard intervals. Outside the court house, sol-

tiers manned enormous Russan machine guns on the backs f pick-up trucks. When the closed white van drew up with the three defendants inside. there was chaos as police tried to prevent photographs being taken. The men emerged, blinking in the harsh sunlight, before being jostled into the court room in handcuffs.



campaign of bombing, kidnapping and killing in Southern Yemen. No mention was made of the five Britons detained in Aden, whom the Yemeni government has been claiming are linked to the kidnappers. Yemen's ambassador has made clear that the five have not yet been charged, the Foreign Of-

fice said last night. Mr Al-Mihdar then delivered a calm and terrifying dia-

which including executing a tribe in Arabic against the West. Christianity and rulers such as President Bill Clinton, He said he and his followers were trying to breach the blockade against Muslims by Britain. America, France and their allies. "Are we going to see the cross raised in this region," be asked the court rhetorically. "or the [Muslim] crescent? We are going to break the cross in this country and the same

Afghanistan will be spilt against the Crusaders."

Smiling frequently as if the trial was all a buge game, Mr Al-Mihdar gave his blow-byblow version of the shoot-out in which four of his hostages died and two were injured. He denied killing any himself, but freely admitted using them as human shields against the advancing government troops. "God sent there to us, so we blood that was spilt in took them," he said. "We kid-

napped them to fight their countries because they don't believe in God or our Prophet."

Mr Al-Mihdar was visibly aware that be has little chance of escaping execution and has even refused a defence lawyer. In the half-hour recess, he chatted amicably to journalists and even his government captors. We asked him if he knew the five Britons detained in Aden on suspicion of terrorism. He replied: "No." He also denied

knowing the British radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza Al-Misri, who told said this week that the kidnappers had called him last month.

Before the court adjourned until after the Islamic Eid holiday next week, the leader of the kidnappers issued a chilling call to his followers. "For those who are still at large," he said, "I hope they will continue the Jihad against the Crusaders.

Families of 'Chechen Four' want truth

FOREIGN Office minister Tony Lloyd was last night under growing pressure to explain the full details of the Government's dealings with the four engineers who were murdered

in Chechnya last month. Yesterday The Independent revealed that, despite publicly insisting it had advised the men not to travel there, it had actually asked them to report back on conditions in Chechnya. The developments come as the family of one of the victims, Darren Hickey, prepare to bury the

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BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

26-year-old at a Roman Catholic Church in Kingston, Surrey today. Mr Hickey's sister Deborah, said yesterday: "It's hypocritical of the Foreign Office. When the men were killed they were blaming Granger Telecom. They knew that this had

been going on."
Yesterday Tory foreign affairs spokeswoman Cheryl Gillan demanded a full explanation of what the Government had said to Granger Telecom,

which employed three of the men. Yesterday she wrote to Mr Lloyd saying: "You refer to the department's 'formal advice'. This begs the question as to whether informal advice was given. You also pose a series of questions which would give the impression to any reasonable person that you were more

work to continue. "The tone of the letter clearly could be interpreted as informal encouragement to the company to ... provide infor-

than content to allow Granger's

mation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office."

Three of the men. Rudolf Petschi. 42, Darren Hickey and Stanley Shaw, 58, were employed by Granger to install mobile telephone equipment. A fourth, Peter Kennedy 46. worked for British Telecom

After the men were kidnapped, in October last year, the Foreign Office insisted that its advice had been not to travel to Chechnya. After they were executed, Mr Lloyd told the Commons, that the advice had

been "clear and unambiguous". But in a letter written last August, the Foreign Office said that since the company was in Chechnya it would "welcome" its views on the opportunities for investment, the influential people in the republic and any information about Jon James and Camilla Carr, two British aid workers who were being

beld bostage in Chechnya. Peter Kennedy's MP, Liberal Democrat Paul Keetch, said yesterday he did not think there was anything wrong with ask-

ing the company to report back on Ms Carr and Mr James. But he added: "There is a need for an inquiry, not only into what was said but on the whole issue of travel advice given to people traveiling to dangerous places."

A Foreign Office spokesman refused to say whether any information was passed to the intelligence services hut said it would have been "irresponsible in the extreme" not to ask about Mr James and Ms Carr.

Leading article. Review page 3

DNA 'robot' could repair body tissue

BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

SCIENTISTS HAVE built a "gene machine" out of DNA which could form the basis of a robot small enough to be injected into the body to repair tissues.

A breakthrough in building DNA molecules that can be moved at will might be the forerunner of robots which could patrol the body in a simlar way to the submarine adenture in the film Fantastic Voyage. A robotic arm has been made of DNA molecules in an attempt to build machines for chemical factories so small that hundreds could fit on a pin-

Some scientists envisage that more advanced versions of the robots could guard the body, seeking and destroying invading microbes, scraping furred-up arteries and repairing tissues ravaged by ageing.

The robotic arm is thousands of times smaller than the smallest metal cogs and wheels, themselves only visible under a microscope, that have been made as part of research mto nano-technology.

The devices are on the scale of a millionth of a millimetre. Scientists at New York University, led by Nadrian Seeman, a chemistry professor, huilt the arm of a nano-robot out of strands of DNA, the chemical blueprint of organisms, which has the innate abil-



'Fantastic Voyage': Not so far-fetched a concept now

ity to replicate itself. "Using synthetic DNA ... we have constructed a controllable molecular-mechanical system ... In the long term the work will have implications for the development of nano-scale robots and for molecular manufacturing," Professor Seeman said.

His team has already made static devices from DNA but this is helieved to be the first time anyone has produced a moving structure from a biological molecule.

A more immediate goal of the research is to place nanorobots on a "production line" to make complex substances, such as genetically engineered drugs, that are now made by micro-organisms.

Professor Seeman said there are still formidable obstacles to using roving robots in the body but it is the kind of futuristic application many people are thinking about.

I . NO III .. IKA

IN BRIEF Poor 'need savings scheme help'

A LOW-COST current account offered through the Post Office and flexible financial products are needed to belp poor consumers avoid being driven to loan sharks, the Office of Fair Trading said today. The watchdog said in a report that millions of people on low-incomes and benefits were being excluded from essential financial services.

Drunken pair on airport runway

A DRUNKEN couple were arrested after walking into the path of an incoming aircraft at Manchester airport. The pilot was forced to circle for 15 minutes on Tuesday as police removed Wayne Wormald of Manchester and Jacqueline Wasicki of Cheetham Hill and charged them with trespassing and endangering the safety of an aircraft.

Jobless interviews condemned

GOVERNMENT PLANS to make jobless single parents and the disabled attend interviews or lose benefits were condemned. Mencap said interviewers would not be able to communicate with people with learning difficulties and the National Council for One-Parent Families said it could make parents put work ahead of responsibilities as parents.

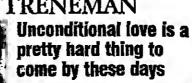
Speed-up in air pollution curbs

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced an accelerated crackdown on air pollution, but admitted that it could not meet its current target to reduce the pollutants regarded as the most health-threatening - particulates. These microscopic particles emitted by lorries and buses are thought to account for thousands of deaths a year.

Crisis in Ulster hospitals

A CRISIS meeting was held in Belfast last night as more than 80 patients waited in hospitals across Northern Ireland for emergency surgery for broken bones. Local Health minister John McFall bas admitted there is a shortage of orthopaedic surgeons in the province and said more would be recruited.

ANN TRENEMAN



IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



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INDEDENDENT &

Sses Additive in toys linked to cancer

A GROUP of chemicals commonly used to soften children's toys are almost 20 times more dangerous than previously thought, research shows.

James Bridges, a British scientist reviewing the matter for the European Commission. said parents should "take precautions" to stop children chewing toys at leogth. The data has prompted bans on the chemicals' use in toys in six countries but not yet in the UK.

Studies in the Netherlands show the softeners, phthalates. found in teething rings and other items that childreo under three chew on, are easily released into saliva. Animal tests have found high doses of two common phthalates, DINP and DEHP can cause liver and kidney cancer, and shrink testicles.

The European Commission considered a hlanket han in June, before the Dutch results were published. The move, hacked by the EU commissioner Emma Bonino, failed hy one vote. "I think Madame Booino would have pushed harder for action to be taken if she had seen these results at the time," Professor Bridges said yesterday.

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Though phthalates are widey used in industry to soften hard plastics such as PVC, their use in toys has become controversial because chiliren's low weight, developing Triology and potentially loog exposure makes them relatively more sensitive to chemicals. Furthermore, many toys are designed to be sucked.

The Dutch tests, dooe with adults, investigated how much A spokesman for Greenpeace DINP would be released into saliva and potentially swallowed when a toy was sucked. major toy-selling period, go by Preliminary results alarmed without taking any action."

BY CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Editor

the scientists sufficiently that they recommended halving infants' exposure time and lowering the allowable exposure of the chemicals eighteen-fold.

"The worry is about children continually chewing these, said Professor Bridges. "You can either have no risk - by removing the toy - or stop children chewing them continuously. But we are particularly concerned about childreo who are institutionalised, say in a poorly run day-care centre or hospital, since they tend to chew toys because they have nothing else to do.

After the results were released, six countries, including Austria and Canada, banned the chemicals from children's toys, while Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Greece are preparing legal grounds to ban

A spokesman for the British Plastics Federation, representing the industry, said yesterday: "We are not aware of this Dutch research hut we do know that the information and experience available to us hasn't shown any problems at all with plastic products made from products of this type." But he added: "Manufacturers are moving away from making toys with these plasticisers."
Greenpeace, which first

raised questions about the safety of phthalates in 1997, said it will encourage the European Commission to reconsider a han, based on the new results. said: "The worst thing is that the EU let Christmas, the



Paul Duckett tmain picture) the natural father of Jade (top left) who is missing along with her sister Hannah (top right) and Jeff and Jennifer Bramley tabove) Gavin Fogg

Custody case looms as natural mother of girls on the run backs foster family

THE FUTURE of the two little BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH girls who disappeared with their foster pareots was thrown into more turmoil yesterday when the natural father of the eldest suggested that he would fight for custody.

His intervention came hours after the children's natural mother said she would support Jeff and Jennifer Bramley who disappeared with the girls the day they were due to hand them back to social services -

in their attempts to adopt. Paul Duckett, the father of five-year-old Jade Bennett, said he had contacted a solicitor and was prepared to go to court. "I am not happy with the present circumstances," he said.

Mr Duckett, 24, added he was certain that Jackie Bennett, Jade and Hannah's mother, would regret her decision to help the Bramleys to adopt her children.

The Bramleys were turned down after social services decided they were too strict. But in an open letter published yesterday, they wrote: "Social services seemed pleased with us. Everything was fine until one day they said we were too safety conscious, saying 'no' and 'don't' too often to the girls ... we are two good, honest, caring people who are willing to give up our home, our family and

friends and jobs to maintain saving that she will give them Jade and Hannah's happiness in keeping them with the parents they love."

Ms Bennett had previously insisted she wanted her daughters back hut after seeing the Bramleys' letter she said she

changed her mind. But Mr Duckett, who said he has been in a stable relationship for the last four years, claimed his former partner was fragile and might have been overwhelmed hy the emotional pleading in the Bramleys'

"She started off saying she wants them back, but she loves those children and I worry that she has been manipulated into

up," he said.

Mr Duckett, who runs a computer company, admitted that he had oot seen his daughter for nearly three years hut said he still loved her.

"I tried to keep in touch hut it was very difficult because Jackie kept moving around.

"Living with me would be the best solution for her because I am her father and I am not going to walk away." Mr Duckett said he had no sympathy with the Bramleys and didn't believe they should be allowed to adopt the children. They didn't seem to be the caring par-

ents I thought they were.

Bramleys disappeared. They took only £5,000 with them and Cambridgeshire Social Ser-

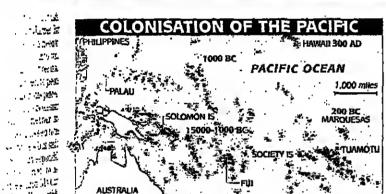
for the two girls."

vices has refused to elaborate drawals since. Their car found in York more than two weeks on why the Bramleys were refused permission to adopt the ago, has been impounded by the children hut a spokesman said: police. Last week there was a "It is incredibly unusual for a sighting reported on a train in local authority to terminate a North Yorkshire.

Their emotional letter would seem to be the first step towards admitting that they want to come home. But even when they do turn up, the future of the two small childreo will still hang in the halance as the adults fight over where they was taken that this would not should live.

Police were yesterday checking reported sightings of be an appropriate placement It is 17 weeks since the the Bramleys in Nottingham, where the letter was posted.

Ann Treneman. Review, Page 5



Two-inch lizard to solve long-distance mystery

inches long may help to solve the mystery of how quickly early human explorers managed to colonise the remote islands of the Pacific Ocean.

One of the biggest challenges facing anthropologists has been explaining how the Polynesians managed to navigate across thousand of miles of open ocean

A TINY lizard less than two BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

> Scientists have two rival theories. Ooe suggested that it was gradual, over many thousands of years, and involved several groups of colonisers. The other theory, called the "express train to Polynesia", postaking no more than a few cen-

turies, and involved a single analysis of Lipinia noctua, a other that they must have de- Islands - were oearly geoetistock of people from South-

east Asia

Archaeological, linguistic and genetic research of presentday Polynesians has given a range of dates for when each island was first colonised.

However, Christopher Austin, an evolutionary biologist tulated that it was a rapid affair, from the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, said a genetic

"vagabood" lizard on Pacific veloped very recently from a cally identical demonstrating a islands that can stow away on boats, suggests the express

train theory is correct. He studied 29 lizards collected from 15 different Pacific islands, spanning Palau in the west to Tuamotu in the east. The results, published in the journal Nature, show that the

lizards are so similar to each

common population.

placement and the last time we

"That is an indication of how

seriously the situation is taken.

There were significant areas of their parenting skills that

caused concern and after careful consideration a decision

have made no further with-

did it was 10 years ago.

The lizard, sometimes called the moth skink, spends much of its time hiding under the bark of trees, and could have stowed away on the canoes of

"All the lizards from the central and eastern Pacific - all the islands east of the Solomon

close relationship as a result of a very rapid colonisation of the Pacific," Dr Austin said.

"One of the most adventurous and bold episodes in human history was the colonisation of the Pacific Islands, and these valuable information as to how

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Inspectors want 'setting' for 5-year-olds

PUTTING CHILDREN as young BY JUDITH JUDO as five in school sets helps to raise standards, inspectors said

A survey of 400,000 lessons and 900 schools backs the Government's belief that children achieve more if they are grouped by ability for different subjects. Setting is different from streaming in which pupils of similar ability are taught together for all subjects.

The proportion of setted doubled to 4 per cent in a year.

An analysis of more than 20 and 1997. major studies recently found that setting and streaming made no difference to pupils' achievement. Children in the bottom sets tended to give up and some of the brighter ones became over-confident about the negative labelling of pupils their ability, said the report from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

But inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education said that nearly all of the schools inspected "demon-

Education Editor

ities once the use of setting had been established".

The report argued that there was no reason why some setting should not be used, particularly in maths, from the age of five or six, provided that

was sensitively organised. Inspectors visited more than 50 schools and found that national test scores in setted sublessons in primary schools has doubled to 4 per cent in a year spectacularly" between 1996

> However, the report warned that setting did not compensate for poor teaching and must be carefully planned. Schools needed to build in safeguards to avoid "the low-esteem and which can occur in lower sets".

But inspectors found no evidence that pupils in the bottom sets were badly motivated and badly behaved. "The vast majority of pupils see advantages to setting, accept the purpose strated a clear trend of rising and fairness of their allocation standards for pupils of all abilto a particular set and like

having more than one teacher' A postal survey of 900 schools found that six out of ten junior schools and more than a third of infant schools used sets for at least one subject. Maths was most commonly setted. Pupils of different ages were taught together in twothirds of the schools that used sets for maths and one-quarter of those that used sets for English. Boys tended to predominate in the bottom sets and

the reasons. Schools took into account aptitude and interest as well as test scores when they allocated children to sets. The report pointed out that only a handful of pupils appeared to transfer sets, up or down, and warned that setting needed to be

inspectors said schools were oot doing enough to discover

Of the schools that used sets, 96 per cent did for maths, 69 per cent for English and 9 per cent for science. A very few also set for French and music and for team games in physi-



Government inspectors believe that grouping papils by ability for different subjects causes standards to rise

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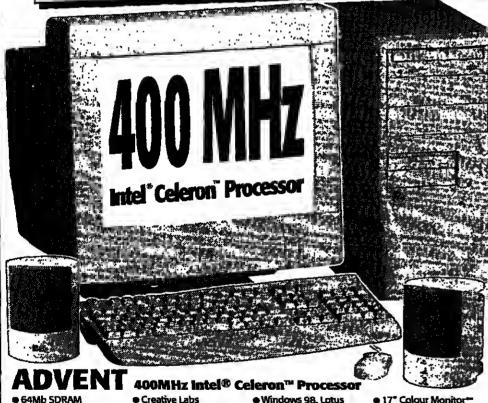
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Firm to bid for hundreds of schools

AN AMERICAN-INSPIRED company has plans to take over hun-dreds of state schools and run them for profit, its head has disclosed. The Education Partnership, which is bidding to manage the first school to be put out to tender, said it hoped to build a network of privately managed schools running into are looking for somebody to

James Tooley, a right-wing Newcastle University academic whose ideas include replacing A-levels and GCSEs with IQ tests and lowering the school-leaving age to 14, is chairman of the Education Partnership, a company closely linked with the New Yorkbased Edison Project, an enterprise that aims to turn round inner-city schools for

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Education Partnership is a leading contender in the race to take over King's Manor School, Guildford Four bidders will present proposals to Surrey County Council next week. Professor Tooley said: "Our ambitioo is that King's Manor will be just the first of the schools we would take over. There are 25,000 schools in the country and we would like to see most of those as private institutions." The company would be "trail-blazing" ideas pioneered in the US by Edison, which runs 50 schools, using advanced technology, aggressive target-setting and zero tolerance of failure.

Professor Tooley, whose report last year on educational research infuriated academics. said his company would also be registering interest in taking over local-authority services after David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that failing councils would have their functions put out to

Education Partnership includes Gareth Newman, head of Brooke Weston City Techoology College, in Corby, Northamotonshire, one of the pioneering specialist schools set up by the Conservatives to harness private investment for

BY BEN RUSSELL **Education Correspondent**

education, and World ORT, an international Jewish training group that has an extensive Internet operation.

Andrew Povey, the Surrey education chairman, said: "We three figures within five years. come up with new ideas who will make a difference to this particular situation."

Surrey has been backed by the Tory educatioo spokesman, David Willetts. It represents a problem for



Tooley: 'King's Manor will be just the first'

Mr Blunkett, who said schools will not be run for profit but has accepted that private firms can offer management expertise in the same way as they provide school meals, cleaning and other services.

The largest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers. said it would oot rule out legal actioo to prevent King's Manor being taken over. Doug McAvoy, the geoeral secretary, said the local authority had to be respoosible for turning round a

Other companies bidding for King's Manor also expressed interest in taking over failing local authority services. Contenders include Nord Anglia and CFBT, both leading educational consultancies and providers of school services.

PC jailed for stealing pensioner's savings

A POLICE officer was jailed for nine mooths yesterday for stealing £700 from the savings of an 83-year-old widow who asked him for crime prevention

PC Ken Davies, 44, took the cash from Doris Midwood after he visited her flat in Shipley, West Yorkshire, several times to give her "safe tins" in which to keep her cash. Davies was the local community constable. In a three-day trial at Leeds

Crown Court the officer, who

was described as "decent and hooest" by colleagues, said he took the cash because he was under stress after several deaths in the family and immediately wanted to return

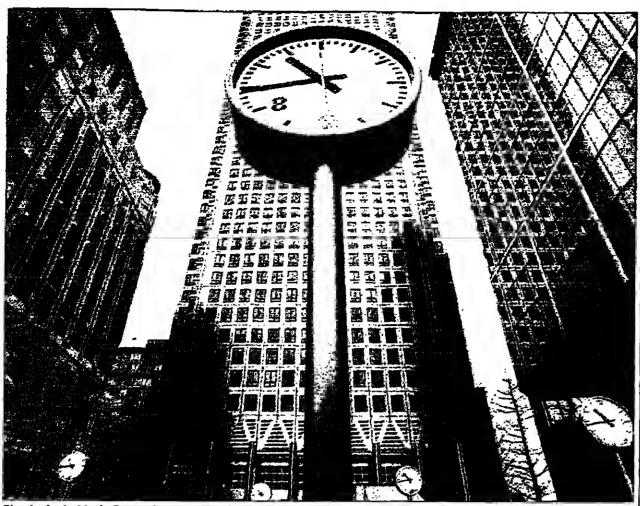
Judge Robert Taylor told him: "This was a very serious offeoce. It involved a grave breach of trust and taking advantage of an elderly and vulnerable person who was looking to you to advise and proOne I

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Six clocks in Nash Cnurt, Canary Wharf, London, by designer Konstantin Greic, will be seen by commuters as they leave the main entrance of the Jubilee line tube station due to be completed later this year. Philip Meech

Fewer than three in ten viewers watching BBC1

THE CONTINUED growth of BY RHYS WILLIAMS satellite television and the success of Channel 5 have combined to push BBC1's audience share below the 30 per ceot

mark for the first time. figures to be published shortly, BBC1's share fell to 29.5 per cent in 1998 from 30.8 per cent the previous year, a decline almost matched by fTV, which slipped back by 1.2 percentage points to 31.7 per cent.

The drop comes at a sensitive time for the corporation as it sets about convincing both the Government and public of the validity of the universal licence fee in the multi-channel age. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has just appointed a panel beaded by the economist Gavyn Davies to advise on setting the level of the fee until 2006.

"You've got to put the fall in the context of 19 new channels coming on stream and a further 12 doing massive relaunches."

"You've also got the first real effect of Channel 5 being felt." In any case, the BBC will argue, the corporation exists as According to official industry a public service broadcaster to provide programmes that other oetworks do not offer in peaktime such as The Life Of Birds. The Human Body or current affairs reports such as Panoramc. "Our differentiation is our programming," added the spokeswoman. "We are all about quality and diversity although obviously we would like

> Although Sir John Birt, the BBC's director-general, has consistently warned that audiences will inevitably decline as channels proliferate, the corporation is acutely aware that the lower its share, the more challenging becomes to argue for a fee levied on every household.

to show that to as wide an au-

This was one of the chief concerns underpinning the conflict

BBC1 and 2, and BBC News over the recent revamp of the

main network's news output. Conscious that bulletins provided soft spots in peak time against which commercial rivals could schedule popular programming, BBC Broadcast was keen to boost the appeal of the news with more "audience-friendly" presenters such as Jill Dando.

John is that cable and satellite's

part, ITV's pain. But there is now evidence that ITV's rate of decline is slowing. Under a new management team appointed last year, ITV secured a 37.9 per cent share of viewing between 7pm and 10.30pm, compared

with a target of 38 per cent. The BBC can take some comfort from the fact that BBC2 has held up comparatively well. It slipped back by 0.3 points to 11.3 per cent in 1998, allowing the BBC's overall share to stay above 40 per cent and retain its place as the nation's leading broadcaster. With Channel 4 also retreating (by 0.3 points to 10.3), only one terrestrial network - Channel 5 - increased

At the end of 1998 tits first full calendar year on air), Channel 5 nearly doubled its share from 2.3 per cent in 1997 to 4.3 beginning at the 9pm watershed and selected sports events such The other likely worty for Sir as Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup campaign last season appears

One HQ plan for all 999 services

RADICAL PLANS to create joint headquarters for police, fire and ambulance services across the United Kingdom are being drawn up by the Government in an attempt to improve emergency response times.

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Pilot schemes for joint 999 call centres and shared buildings for the three emergency "revolutionise" public services. emergency services for some Jack Cunningham, the Cab-

inet Office minister, and Alan Milburn, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced a raft of oew projects aimed at saving time and money for the public.

More than 33 schemes to encourage better co-ordination between different Whitehall departments and agencies were unveiled under the Government's Invest to Save programme over the next three

Joint centres for police, fire and ambulance services are aimed at saving life-saving minutes in response times, as well as cutting costs by getting the three services to co-operate.

The services would not merge all their facilities, but key infrastructure such as vehicle maintenance and telephone call centres would come under one roof. More than £7.8m has been set aside by the Department of Health to create three pilot projects for the new 999 services.

Elizabeth Neville, Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police and one of the hidders for the cash. said that joint ceotres could save "life-saving minutes" by enabling a more flexible response to emergencies oo a

one call brings them all" basis. Wiltshire already has some police cars fitted with defibril-

Political Correspondent

fators, which can save heart attack victims' lives if applied in time. They patrol areas of the county which ambulances find it hardest to get to, she said.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday services were unveiled yester- be had been pushing the idea day as part of a £120m drive to of joint call centres for the

> "The taxpayer can't be expected to pay out three times over and we must look for the best deal for all three services. This means looking at joint control and communication

> "The acid test must be better services for patients and the public."

Other innovative schemes being backed by ministers include projects to cut housebuying times by linking all conveyancing agencies on the Internet, and a Scottish scheme to rebabilitate of young offenders.

Dr Cunningham revealed he will publish a White Paper in the spring setting out Labour's vision for "radical modernisation" of public services. The paper would spell out the need for more strategic, long-term policy-making across departments, exploiting new technology to improve services and improving civil servants' performance through a new Civil Service Management College.

Half the schemes announced yesterday are pilot projects, to identify the scope for savings, which are said to be potentially "quite substantial". The other half are ready to start and are expected to save about £50m over the next three years.

What gives Claudia Schiffer confidence?



Warren agrees to pay King £7.2m

BOXING PROMOTER Frank By GARY FINN Warren agreed to pay US rival Don King £7.2million to end their partnership and settle their differences yesterday.

Mr Warren, who has had his husiness assets frozen by the High Court, bas been locked into an acrimonious legal row as he sought to extricate himself from their four-year part-

He had not been able to stage key fights since the row began over a dispute over separate US TV rights negotiated outside of the Warreo-King partnership for Prince Naseem

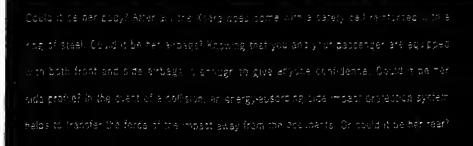
Last night, the hefty pay-out seemed to melt the ice between two of the sport's craftiest fixers. Mr King, who will

said he was still "fond of Frank".

ceded that he may have to sell the family home to meet the first repayment.

Under the agreement, Mr Warren acknowledged his obligation to pay Mr King in recognition of his rights as a partner and publicly withdrew all the allegations which he had made against him and his company, Don King Promotions.

Outside court, Mr King commented: "My reputation is most important to me and the vindication of my rights both here and in America. The justice system bere has given me justice receive his cash in installments and I am very, very happy."



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THE PAST three weeks of Labour to endure the nightmare of Jim Blair looked relieved and relaxed at in-fighting and turmoil should have Dobbin (Lab, Heywood & Middle-the mere mention of the word been the perfect backcloth for a nuclear attack by William Hague against the Prime Minister, But, like many an over-hyped advance billing, the expected grudge match

failed to materialise. The pre-planned soundbites drafted by Mr Hague may have looked good on paper but they failed to deliver the knock-out blow Tories were hoping for. Methinks he had prepared too much. Both sides fielded a full turn-out and a tanned but tense Prime Minister waited anxiously for Mr Hague's opening

ton) droning on about the sense of occasion he felt at "asking the first question in the last year of this milcould not see Mr Blair looking irritated and impatient as he bored on, telling the Prime Minister how marvellous the New Deal and the latest unemployment figures were.

A momentarily hushed House dered if Mr Blair regretted Frank Dobson's comments in autumn that the NHS could face the possibility of the winter with confidence.

"health". Adopting the tactic of Margaret Thatcher, he splattered endless statistics around the Chamlennium - I feel very important". He ber in an enthusiastic, confident,

It took him no time at all to say any current shortcomings were the result of the Tory years of NHS mismanagement. True or not, while this tactic may one day eventually then waited for Mr Hague, who won-dered if Mr Blair regretted Frank the moment with Labour MPs. The opportunity was now presented for the Prime Minister to reveal details of his secret, Princess of Wales-style visit to an accident and emergency

THE SKETCH



unit the previous evening. At first hand, he said, he was told of the shortage of murses and lack of mvestment, which he hlamed on the someone else.

But he then made a misjudgement by weaving the events surrounding the recent scandals and resignations into the same batch of questions. Normally Mr Hague sensibly raises his second issue later on during question time but yesterday he fired all his ammunition at once in a scatter-gun approach. While the tactic was not a total disaster, neither was it a roaring success, and enabled Mr Blair to riposte with: "It didn't take him long to get off the health service."

The Tory leader continued firing

gets but Mr Blair ducked and dived as the bullets merely grazed him without drawing any blood.

Mr Hague's best line was when he denounced suggestions of Mr Mandelson's early return to government, "The comeback kid is the kick-back kid." This got his troops cheering politely but they looked mildly disappointed. Nick Hawkins (C, Surrey Heath) raised the holiday absence of the Blair children from school after term had started but he was shot down in allow our families to be used as bat-

Hague fails to draw blood in clash over health service Tories' record. Mr Hague retorted indiscriminately at the Peter Manthat Mr Blair always had to blame delson and Geoffrey Robinson target eral Democrat leader, Paddy Ashenson also down, to put the boot into Labour's alleged failure to deliver their promises on crime, health and education. Unusually, be went for the Prime Minister with an aggressive, shricking voice that belied the lovey-dovey relationship they are supposed to enjoy. It may have been overdone to keep in check disgruntled Liberal Democrats who do not like talk of pacts with Labour. Whatever Mr Ashdown's motives, Dennis Skinner (Lab. Bolsover) shouted to Mr Blair: "Sack him," flames by the Speaker. "We don't which got the best laugh of an otherwise scrappy and scruffy session.

Prive medicular ruine life could care I

Labour woes made NHS crisis worse'

PM'S QUESTION TIME By Sarah Schaefer Political Reporter

WILLIAM HAGUE claimed yesterday the past weeks of turmoil within the Government had been a "disgrace" that had directly affected the crisis in the

The Tory leader used the tirst Prime Minister's question time of the year to attack the "personal feuds" that erupted over the Christmas recess.

He told the House of Commons: "While the NHS has been in crisis, personal feuds have taken the place of political principle, personal loans have taken the place of politi-

while there were "still huge problems in the health service" it was impossible to "put right 20 years of neglect in schools and health in 20

However, Mr Hague went on having tried to protect Peter Mandelson, the former secretary press secretary, Charlie of state for trade and industry. and now wanting to rehabilitate him even though the past few

"It is time you buried the spin-doctoring politics of New lie services worsen." Labour with the self-serving. high-living career of the polititreating him like the Come- was getting through the winter last general election.

patients with both health and

social needs is confused, inad-

equate and riven with incon-

The Commons Select Com-

mittee on Health condemned

the present system under

which the NHS provides health-

after social services. "Respon-

sibilities are blurred, profes-

reported yesterday.

weeks had "been a disgrace".



William Hague: Attacking Labour yesterday

back Kid when he is actually the Kickback Kid,

"No matter how often you relaunch it, a Government that believes in everything and But Tony Blair insisted that helieves in nothing cannot succeed."

The rowdy exchanges followed three weeks of upheavals and turmoil for the Government, overshadowed by the resignations of Mr Manto accuse the Prime Minister of Paymaster-General and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's

> al Democrat leader, told Mr Blair: "Electors did not vote to kick out the Tories and see pub- a shortage of nurses because

Whelan.

THE PROVISION of care to SOCIAL SERVICES

sistencies, a committee of MPs are suffering because of barri-

care while local councils look dence that people coming out

sionals face unnecessary service care was available. One

problems and users and carers stroke victim received no help

cian who invented it...you are the NHS had ensured that it trainee nurses today than at the

Care system 'confused'

Health Editor

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

ers created by structural divi-

sion which is hased on an

ill-defined and arguably non-ex-

istent boundary," the MPs said.

of hospital faced a "constant

battle" to find out what social

The committee found evi-

in much hetter shape than would have been the case. Mr Hague said: "What we have seen in the last few weeks

is intensive care bed availability at the lowest ever, we've seen doctors and nurses under even more pressure than before. "We've seen pregnant women told not to give birth,

we've seen refrigerated lorries used as temporary morgues, we've seen people on trolleys in bospitals - all people who were told they could look forward to the winter with confidence." To Labour jeers, Mr Hague

added: To you there is always someone else to hlame. The NHS is in crisis and you say the Government is innocent. Whatever happens in this Government, everybody always says they are innocent.

"The Trade and Industry Secretary resigns and be's innocent. The Paymaster-General resigns, and now we know why he was called the Paymaster-General. delson, Geoffrey Robinson as and he's meant to be innocent.

"The Chancellor's press secretary resigns, or intends to resign, and he's innocent. The NHS is in crisis and you're in Paddy Ashdown, the Liber- nocent-St Tony, the Angel of Islington, is always innocent!"

But Mr Blair said there was the Tories cut by 4,000 the num-But the Prime Minister said ber of places between 1992 and the extra £2.5bn investment in 1994 and there were 2,500 more

leaving hospital - because she

did not know who to ask. Ter-

minal cancer victims who left

hospitals to die sometimes had

to wait almost a month before

their needs were assessed.

Radical reform was needed,

the MPs said, adding: "We con-

sider that the problems of col-

laboration between health and

social services will not be prop-

erly resolved until there is an

integrated health and social



Adele Starr, 12, giving Alan Howarth, the Culture, Media and Sport minister, a lesson on a new computer system that has been installed at Chesterfield library. Users of Derbyshire's 10 largest libraries can now surf the Internet, and use CD-Rom and video links. Andrew For

Tories accuse ministers of going soft on housing fraud

night of "outrageous" laxity toward benefit crime after it emerged that newly introduced government guidelines had led at home for six months after

to a sharp fall in fraud detection across the country. Housing henefit fraud investigators have estimated that they will lose up to £200m a year because of a little-known circular issued by the Department of Social Security.

Town halls are reporting a 60 per cent drop in the level of fraud detection as a result of the new DSS rules that tightened the rules of evidence. Until last year, a "balance of probabilities" system operated and investiBY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

gators could suspend benefit on suspicion of illegality and provide concrete proof later. .

The DSS circular informed councils that they would no longer be compensated for money lost to fraudsters unless they provided surveillance and other evidence to prove that the rageous" example of the Gov-

fraud was deliberate. Councils claim that the Government has "changed the goalposts" in a hid to save itself Labour was soft on henefit savings not fictional ones. In the millions of pounds while claim- crime and this proves it. This next few weeks I shall be making that fraud was dropping circular is a politically moting a major announcement on Anti-fraud units across the UK vated sleight of hand to save the my anti-fraud strategy."

claim the new system penalises them and could result in joh losses or rises in council tax.

Senior Tories are set to raise the issue in the Commons today, when they will claim the circular proves that ministerial rhetoric on tackling fraud is not matched by reality. Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative social security spokesman, said that the DSS change was an "out-

campaign against fraud.

Mr Duncan Smith claimed that the Social Security minister Angela Eagle had misled the House of Commons on Monday when she denied that antifraud strategies had been

watered down. Alistair Darling, the Secre-tary of State for Social Security. denied the Tory charges last night. "Since I arrived at the DSS, I have ended the 'money ernment watering down the for nothing culture. The new system of housing benefit fraud "We always worried that targets produces real fraud

said that the changes had been introduced after claims that -some councils had been overclaiming the level of fraud in their area. £100m was being directed into improving fraud prevention for local authorities. The total amount of money saved by local authority fraud investigation units in 1997-98 was £342m, with the majority of town halls saving nearly £2m each on average.

The National Audit Office reported this week that there was "no evidence of any improvement" in stemming the losses from benefit fraud suffered by councils.

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THE HOUSE



Protection Bill

A BILL to improve the protection of children from physical and sexual abuse by introducing a list of people unsuitable to work with them was given a formal first reading yesterday. It was introduced by Debra Shipley, Labour MP for Stourbridge.

Post Office bid

THE PRICE paid by the Post Office for German Parcel was its annual turnover plus any special assets, Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry minister said. Previously, acquisition estimates were not given as they were commercially sensitive.

No pardons

THE GOVERNMENT resisted calls for pardons for 343 British servicemen shot for desertion in the First World War as little evidence survived.

Spinning 'won't stop'

THE PROBLEM of spindoctoring will "never comBY SARAH SCHAEFER abuse of power by Mr Campbell."
Alan Beith, the Liberal Depletely go away", Jack Cun-ningham, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, said yesterday amid growing concern about the influence of press aides such as Alastair Campbell

Speaking during a Liberal Democrat-led Opposition de-bate on government information, Dr Cunningham said off-the-record briefings were an enduring fact of political life. "Much is made out of anony-

mous comments and quotes... The very fact that they are anonymous makes it very difficult for anyone, however great the will, to do anything about

Dr Cunningham, in charge of solutely no evidence of any private sector.

speedy abolition of hereditary

peers were dashed when Tories

paign of "trench warfare"

against the plans.

promised to continue a cam-

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory

leader in the Lords, said that

some backbench peers were

likely to draft wrecking amend-

ments in a final protest at the

changes. "Sunset clauses"

would ensure the Bill will self-

co-ordinating the presentation of government policy, said Liberal Democrats took part in the process too. "We all know when we read in the newspapers, don't we, quotes which say friends of Mr Ashdown', we know what that is - that's Mr Ashdown, that's Mr Ashdown's office.We all know the code and we read that quite fre-

quently" Some political journalists, however, were "absolutely addicted" to spin-doctoring, he

GOVERNMENT HOPES of a CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM decide on the long-term shape

destruct if the Government

fails to carry out wholesale re-

form before the next election,

forward a Bill abelishing the

voting and sitting rights of

hereditary peers next week,

with the White Paper estab-

lishing a Royal Commission to is absurd," he said.

The Government will bring

BY PAUL WAUGH

he said yesterday.

mocrats deputy leader, de-manded to be told the duties of Chancellor Gordon Brown'a press secretary. Charlie Whelan, now he was to resign.

"Does he sit at his desk reading through the joh adverts and sending out his CV or is he actually engaged in government work? Will be be restricted in the private sector posts that he can take up, because of access to government information that he has had and is he continuing to have that kind of access?

"I think we are entitled to added, stressing: "The reality is know that. Other senior Treathat it's never going to com- sury civil servants would be repletely go away. but there is ab-

of the second chamber. Minis-

ters had hoped for Tory support

for a crossbench compromise

to allow 75 hereditary peers to

remain in a transitional cham-

ber, but Lord Strathclyde made

clear no deals were likely.

"There will be trench warfare.

Any question that this Bill is

going to fly through the House

of Lords without hardly a wave

Peers' leader promises war

Commons: Questions to Education and Employment ministers. Debate on Public Accounts Committee reports. Fisheries debate. Lords: Social Security (Transfer of Functions) Bill, committee. Financing of Maintained Schools Regulations. Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Construction Board) Order. Industrial Training

DRIVE

YOUR

WILL

QUESTIONS AND **ANSWERS**

Praise for vote on Euro fraud THE EUROPEAN

Parliament's planned vote of no confidence in the European Commission is a reflection of a "much tougher attitude and a much greater awareness" of the fraud problem, the Agriculture minister Lord Donoughue said.

Today's business

Levy (Construction Board) Order.

is independent.

ervice 'Private medicine ruined my life – and couldn't care less'

A PRIVATE patient who has BY JEREMY LAURANCE been permanently maimed after the disgraced gynaecologist Rodney Ledward operated on her seven times has had her attempts to obtain help blocked because of the lack of regulation of the private sector.

Anita Hill's experience at the hands of Mr Ledward, who was struck off the medical register last September, fell so far short of acceptable standards that the NHS consultant she went to see recommended she sue for negligence. However, her attempts to elicit a response from Mr Ledward's legal advisers and medical

insurers have so far failed. Mrs Hill, 54, who spent seven years in and out of hospital and at one stage suffered a perforated bowel, was initially refused help by St Saviour's hospital in Hythe, Kent, despite a request from an NHS consultant who said she needed further surgery. St Saviour's is run by the British United Provident Association, Bupa.

The South East Kent community health council accused Bupa of "dragging its heels" over the issue and lawyers for the victims said its refusal to accept a share of the responsibility was "reprehensible."

Later Bupa relented, after being contacted by The Inde-

CHEIM

Praise lor on Euro fra

Today's business Health Editor

pendent, and agreed to offer Mrs Hill a free consultation that is due to take place today. The company also agreed to donate £2,000 to the patient support group set up by the community health council for victims of Mr Ledward.

would be someone in the pri-

vate sector to go to if you had

problems but I learnt to my cost

that there wasn't. My whole life

has been ruined and I have had

solicitor from Thomson, Sneil

and Passmore in Tunbridge

Wells, which is handling most

of the negligence cases, said: "It

comes as a surprise to private

patients that there is no one to

complain to, because they think

they are paying for the best in

A spokeswoman for Bupa

said the firm had endeavoured

to help Mr Ledward's patients

by offering free consultations.

She added: "Patients are stuck

in a private trap and we doo't

like the situation. We don't

employ consultants as the NHS

does and they are not answer-

able to us. We appreciate it is

difficult for the patients but it

is difficult for us to belo because

their complaint is with the con-

Patricia Fearnley, Mrs Hill's

nobody to turn to."

medical care,"

The lack of regulation of the private health industry is to be investigated by the House of Commons health select committee, starting next month. Mrs Hill, whose ordeal

began 12 years ago, believed she had simply been unlucky until the full extent of Mr Ledward's incompetence emerged in November More than 400 women have contacted the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, since he was struck off the medical register in September and over 120 are considering legal action. About half the women, including Mrs Hill, were private patients.

She said: "If it wasn't for the NHS I wouldn't have anyooe to help me. They have told me who to turn to and what to do. The private sector have not been to any of our meetings. The message is, 'If you have still got health insurance we can see you but if not, tough'."

She added: "I thought there sultant, not the hospital."



Anita Hill, who is still suffering from the effects of seven operations by the gynaecologist Rodney Ledward

DIARY OF A MEDICAL DISASTER

Operation one: Anita Hill's ordeal began in 1987 when she was referred to Rodney Ledward on her husband's private health insurance for treatment for heavy menstrual bleeding and stress incontinence. He told her that a hysterectomy was the answer. Operation two: Three months later she was back In St Saviour's hospital complaining of pain in her side. Mr Ledward discovered an ovarian cyst that had been missed when he carried out the

hysterectomy. She had an operation to remove it but the wound wouldn't heal. Operations three and four: She was taken back twice to repair a hernia that out successfully.



Ledward: Struck off

had developed and correct a prolapsed bladder. The operations by Mr Ledward failed and she was referred to the NHS where the hemia repair was carried

Operation five: Mr Ledward told her she would need hormone replacement therapy and advised her to have hormonal implants. which were replaced every three months.

apparently ruptured her

bowel and another surgeon was called in and

performed an emergency

Over the next seven months

The series of operations has

Mrs Hill underwent two

remainder of her bowel.

left her with a weakened

suffers pain, is prone to

vomiting and has been told

she needs a further hernia repair and plastic surgery

on her stomach to remove

scar tissue. Her husband

has lost his private health

Insurance and she took

of ill health in 1991.

stomach wall and a mis-shapen abdomen. She

further operations on the

colostomy.

Operation six: In 1993. pains developed in her right side and she was operated on by Mr Ledward to remove her remaining ovary. She felt nauseous and feverish when she came round from the anaesthetic, but was discharged - only to be sent back by her GP

24 hours later. Operation seven: After she developed a swollen abdomen, Mr Ledward inserted a vaginal drain and sald he would have to operate again. The drain

major told to resign BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

Candid

MAJOR ERIC JOYCE, who publicly condemned the Army leadership as a clique of white, out-of-touch elitists, has been ordered to resign his commissioo or be sacked.

The outspoken Black Watch major hopes to stand as a Labour candidate in elections for the Scottish Parliament and critics privately regard his at-tack oo the "officer class" as an exercise in self-promotion.

Major Joyce was told at a meeting with his commanding officer in Aldershot that he would automatically be discharged if he did not resign his commission within two months. Unbowed, he reiterated afterwards he intends to take his case for freedom of speech within the Army to the European Court of Human Rights.

Major Joyce breached Queen's Regulations by writing Mark Chilvers a pamphlet for the Labouraffiliated Fabian Society and has appeared before the Army Board, accused of speaking about the Army without its permission. In the pamphlet he alleged the Army was racist, snobbish and outdated.

Major Joyce rose through the ranks in the Black Watch and is on the staff of the Adjutant General's Corps, the Army's administrative branch. He said yesterday it was "terribly important" soldiers should be allowed to speak freely and he condemned the "obsessioo" of the Army top brass with an "officer class". He said Queen's Regulations were "a convention" and not legally enforceable.

Major Joyce is being dealt with under a procedure allowing unsuitable personnel to

leave the Army.
The Ministry of Defence said attitudes in the Army were evolving. "We are a meritocracy. If you are not good enough, you early retirement on grounds don't get on. We're not interested in a person's background, class or school."

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THE LIVES of children entering By LOUISE JURY

tempered by the persistence of the poverty trap and growth in cooker and a fixed hath, 70,000

10 causes of death for young is marking half a century of

the new millennium have been

transformed by 50 years of

medical breakthroughs. But

the improvements have been

juvenile crime, according to a

Diarrhoea, bronchitis and

tuberculosis are oo longer the

killers they were in 1949. In-

stead suicide is among the top

victim of

Rise of healthy but troubled generation Payout



people today. And although

housing has improved since

the days when only half the

children faced homelessness

and now has been drawn from

official statistics by the Variety

Club of Great Britain, which

The snapshot survey of then



Life was hard for these Glaswegian children in 1948, but modern children, although less likely to succumb to disease, face new problems

raising money to help children.

thor, said: "In 50 years, Britain

has seen vast changes. After

the Second World War children

had to live in a country still dev-

astated by the conflict. Life

was tough hut straightforward

children face today."

when compared with the life

Breakthroughs in medicine

have cut the child death sta-

tistics to hundreds rather than

thousands. The expansion of

Jan Walsh, the report's au-

universities and cuts in class-

room sizes have improved ed-

ucation. But the divorce rate is

four times higher than it was 50

years ago and children of lone

parents are among the most

was under way among couples

who had put their lives on hold

during the war years, the report

notes. Despite an 18 per cent in-

crease in the population since

then, there were nearly as

Fifty years ago, a baby boom

impoverished.

many young people as there are today - more than 14 million. The death rate was similar to today's with just over 1 per cent of the total population dying each year. "But children vere far more likely to succumb to fatal diseases in 1949 than

they are now," Ms Walsh said. Better nutrition, improved living cooditions and the NHS immunisation programmes have helped to cut the figures. The report suggests that beBert Hardy/Bob Watkins

cause death by disease is less likely parents' fears that their child may be murdered have increased. Although homicide rates were slightly higher in 1949, the relative importance has risen. "When compared to the other dangers that exist for children in the late 1990s, the possibility that they might be murdered is stronger incomparison to other possible causes of death - because death hy disease is now so unlikely."

When teenagers started work in 1949, they were paid relatively low wages. On average, a man aged under 21 earned 58 shillings and sixpence (52.92) a week which, taking account of inflation, would be an annual wage of £2,872 today. Girls under 18 earned the equivalent of £2,460. The report said: Even the lowest paid just-outof-school workers today would get at least £5,000 a year"

But alongside the good news comes bad. Although fewer young people are found guilty of hurglary boys and girls are now committing significant numbers of violent crimes.

Some subjects are impossible to compare. Child abuse was barely recognised half a century

Professor Sir Eric Stroug whose childcare work at King's Hospital, Lewisham, south London, was supported by \$2m of Variety Club money, said there was no doubt the health of children was better than it had been 50 years ago.

Philip Burley, head of the Variety Club, said many medical and health problems may have been solved, though other social and political problems re-mained. "They are much harder to solve and are really the challenge for the future."

undisclosed sum in settlement of a claim of sexual harassment by a senior Mason. The out-of-court settlement the charges against him and saved the Masons from a po-

agreed to review the way they

woman clerk accepted an

tentially embarrassing two-day industrial tribunal, due to begin vesterday, which would have shone an unwanted spotlight on the inner workings of the United Grand Lodge, the head-quarters of English and Weish Freemasonry.

Shella Delaney reached a settlement with lawyers representing the lodge after claiming that she was subjected to a four-year campaign of sexual intimidation.

Ms Delaney had alleged that while she worked at the building in Great Queen Street, central London, comments were made about her nipples and breasts and she was subjected to unwanted physical contact by senior colleague. Since Ms Delaney's complaints, the lodge has employed a human resources consultant to review its employment practices.

While not admitting liability the lodge released a joint statement with McDonagh and Associates, the London solicitors representing Ms Delaney, saying: "The United Grand Lodge of England very much regrets the circumstances which have led to Ms Delaney's complaints and has determined to ensure that such a situation does not reoccur.

"[The]United Grand Lodge has retained a professional human resources consultant to assist the organisation in reviewing its policies and practices and in implementing an education and training pro-

gramme for its staff." sued, Ms Delaney, 39, from Hampstead, north-west London, said of the lodge: "It is a male-dominated environment and there is a disrespect for

At the height of the campaign of alleged harassment, Ms Delaney submitted an article to the magazine. Freemasonry Today, describing the conditions she

investigation that led to a senior

had to work under. The article was not published but prompted an internal

Home Affairs Correspondent

Mason being called before a disciplinary hearing last September. The Mason admitted some of

was found guilty of gross misconduct. But the Masons' grand secretary, Jim Daniel, decided the offences did not warrant dismissal and, despite the protests of Ms Delaney, allowed him to return to his previous post the same month. Ms Delaney told The Inde-

pendent she could not sleep the night before the senior Mason returned to work. "I felt as if I had to go in and show willing but I could not cope. I left at one o'clock and cried all the way home. People on the Tube thought I was mentally ill," she

On the advice of a doctor she took sick leave and has not been back to work for four months. She alleged that ber treatment caused her to lose ten pounds in weight as she suffered humiliation, demoralisation and lack of confidence.

Mr Daniel said after the settlement. "There was an investigation. I had a panel and I had independent people on that panel with expert advice and they upheld some of the allegations. The complainant was not happy with some of the remedies put forward by the panel but has now agreed to settle and the matter is now closed.

In support of her case, Ms Delaney was due to call as a witness a second female employee, Donna Hanson, who reached an out-of-court settlement with the Masons after bringing her own action for sexual discrimination.

Freemasonry, which is Craft", has gone to great lengths in recent years to dispel its reputation for secrecy. It maintains that it is simply a private organisation, no more secret than any other that chooses not to disclose details

of its membership. The United Grand Lodge, which traces its origins back to 1717, oversees the administration of more than 7,800 lodges in England and Wales, with a collective membership of some

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EUROPEAN UNION CRISIS

MEPs back away from 'nuclear option'

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Strasbourg

A BLOODIED European Commission looks set to cling on to power today after a dramatic eleventh hour threat to quit by its President Jacques Santer paid off by calling the bluff of the European Parliament,

MEPs were last night poised to draw back from a threat to vote the Commission out of office after a day of turmoil in which Mr Santer warned he would resign if they voted to sack Edith Cresson, the former French Socialist Prime Minister. The Brussels executive could still find itself out of power in the unlikely event of a majority calling for the resignation of the scandal-tainted Mrs Cresson in a vote today.

Sacking the Commission tody would be an unprecedented act which would plunge the European Union into crisis. It would halt key reforms to the common agricultural policy and the £60tio annual trudget needed to prepare the Union for enlargement.

Strasbourg was engulfed by intrigue vesterday as the Commission's future tung in the balance. A desperate scramble was underway in the parliament's committee rooms while Commission supporters - mostly Socialist MEPs - sought to fight off a motion of censure, the so-called "nuclear option" which would vote the Commission out of office, and another motion singling out individual Commissioners for hlame.

Mr Santer moved to ensure his own survival in the small hours of yesterday morning when he issued a challenge to the tiggest grouping, the 202 MEPs of the centre-right Christian Democrat group. The tactic prompted up to 80 conservatives to pull back from the hrink when he made it clear that a resolution targetting Mrs Cresson, the Commissioner for education, would prompt him to resign, probably bringing the entire Commission body with him.

The Christian Democrats backed off and instead of "naming and shaming" Mrs Cresson and Manuel Marin, a Spanish Vice-President of the Commission, were planning a resolution severely criticising EU financial mismanagement.



Jacques Santer, President of the Enropean Commission, with Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner, at the beginning of a meeting of the 20-strong team of Commissioners in Strasbourg yesterday

All week MEPs had been talking up the "nuclear option" of sacking the full Commission body over a burgeoning fraud and nepotism scandal which dates from 1995.

Over dinner in the European Parliament's plush riverside restaurant late on Tuesday evening, about 20 centre-right Euro MPs had gathered in the cavernous red-carpeted room. They were questioning Mr Santer about the crisis when he dropped the bombshell hy threatening to plunge the EU into a constitutional crisis hy resigning himself if MEPs tried to censure any members of his

A row over the EU 1996 hudget was suddenly spinning out of control and threatening meltdown - much as Monica Lewinsky's allegations against

President Bill Clinton came training programme and for seemingly from nowhere to threaten his presidency,

Yesterday, in a nondescript

meeting room beside the Parliament's temicycle, Tory MEPs met with Sir Leon Brittan, another Vice-President of the European Commission. seeking to avert a showdown. But when Sir Leon sought to mollify the MEPs by offering a new committee to investigate the fraud allegations, one MEP responded: "What's the point of a group of wise men when we want blood?"

Most of the details of fraud and irregularities date back several years, but two sitting Commissioners have been singled out for attack.

Mrs Cresson has come in for acute criticism over alleged poor administration of a youth "favouritism" in awarding of contracts.

Mr Marin faces questions about the administration of the multi-hillion pound humanitarian aid budget, "Echo", which he controlled until 1995, and the "Med" programme, designed to help Mediterranean countries.

When, in December, the Parliament's budget control committee refused to sign off a set of accounts relating to 1996, the Socialists proposed today's censure motion, which was intended to fail, as a means of giving the Commission a vote of confidence. That initiative, made hy

Pauline Green, leader of the Socialists (the largest group in the Parliament), backfired badly. With a two-thirds majority needed to expel the Commission, adoption of the censure motion seemed impossible. But last week Commission hureaucrats in Brussels enraged MEPs by suspending a whistle-blowing

official, Paul van Buitenen. The ensuing row provoked the power struggle between the Parliament and the unelected college of 20 Commis-

As a welter of further revelations rocked the Commission, the Socialist position proved more and more difficult to sustain. Not only had Mr Van Buitenen's predicament raised the temperature, but also Mrs Cresson showed no signs of bowing to a growing clamour for her departure.

With her MEPs concerned that they were appearing to be

highlighted by a Tory MEP, Edward McMillan

DIARY OF A SHOWDOWN

Scott (right). Two Officials face criminal charges for allegedly defrauding European Year of Tourism of up to £3m. The case continues. November 1995: European Court of

1995: Fraud in the EU is

Auditors refuses to certify EU's annual accounts after discovering that almost £3bn not properly accounted for. Late 1996: European Parliament,

concerned by the Commission's slow response on tourism fraud, threatens to freeze 10 per cent of Commissioners' salaries. Commission sets up taskforce.

November 1996: Court of Auditors once more refuses to certify EU's accounts amid signs of lax controls over around

Early 1997: Finnish Commissioner Erkki Liikanen (above) announces plan to root out nepotism in Commission and improve financial controls. March 1998: Parliament holds up EU

tudget again, pending promised concessions from Commission. October 1998: Allegations in French press about cronyism in education and training

department of French Socialist Commissioner Edith Cresson (right). She threatens lawsuits. More allegations about loss of £1,7m in

humanitarian aid money because of irregularities going back to early 1980s when the Spanish Commissioner, Manuel Marin, was in charge of programme. October 1998: Santer promises independent fraud office to replace Uclaf, Commission's fraud unit, in bid to

fend off German MEPs' threats to table motion of censure. December 1998: Parliament refuses to discharge tudget after Commission issues a back us or sack us threat. Pauline Green (right), leader of

the Socialist group, tables a censure motion she knows will fail - in effect a tactic to bring about a vote of confidence in the European

January 1998: News of suspension of Commission whistleblower Paul van

Buitenen (below right) reaches Parliament. He has already sent a 34page dossier of allegations to Green group in Parliament, Support for sacking the entire Commission builds dramatically

among angry MEPs across political

spectrum. His \$300,000 job suddenly at risk. Jacques Santer promises "zero tolerance" In an eight-point clean-up plan, including unfettered access to documents by a select committee of Parliament and an end to nepotism in



soft on fraud, Mrs Green changed course and demanded concessions from the Commission. At the same time, she called for Mr Santer to quit if any within his college were

singled out. that Mr Santer was a coconspirator in this move to raise the stakes, because there is ample evidence of dialogue hetween the two. A late-night meeting on Tuesday in the Hilton Hotel was captured on

film by a German TV crew. MEPs' anger at Mrs Cresson remains undiminished. Last week she held two dinners for journalists in her elegant Brussels apartment, in which she railed against her accusers. The German media was, she argued, chiefly to blame for cre-

ating a furore to fuel the new

Eurosceptic mood of a nation which feels it is paying too much to Brussels. At one event she even hinted that dirty tricks against her were being investigated by the security services.

Her mood towards the Par-There seems little doubt liameot was defiant. During Monday's debate she defended herself, from a seated position, without much hint of apology. By contrast, her colleague Mr Marin stood, and made an emotional and effective defence of his honesty.

When the two appeared at a meeting of the Liberals, the third largest group in the Parliament, the pattern was repeated: Mr Marin contrite but admitting to no wrong; Mrs Cresson "vigorous".

position of strength. The Par- sacked than crawl" to the liament has no right to censure

individuals, and constitutionally Mr Santer cannot sack them either. But even this is an anomaly, Mr Santer told one group of MEPs that any minister in his native Luxembourg who stood accused of similar charges would have resigned.

But the mood among the 20strong Commission was also defiant. Appointed by national governments, the Commissioners include experienced and streetwise politicians such as Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, and Sir Leon, both of whom wanted to stand firm. Several are due to leave their posts in the summer; others just couldn't stomach the idea of caving in. At their meeting on Tuesday one Commis-She was arguing from a sioner said he would "rather be Parliameot.

Santer, a burgomeister airbrushed into history

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

FOUR YEARS ago, when he succeeded Jacques Delors, The Independent wrote that Jacques Santer, the unknown, largely unremarkable prime minister of Luxembourg, had been "airhrushed into history" when he was chosen to tread the European Commission. Yesterday. he came within a whisker of being airbrusted out of it.

The man who occupies the most important job in the European Union was nearly removed from it. And apart from a face suddenly removed from the ceremonial photographs, scarcely a soul would have noticed

Jacques Santer has left no enduring mark on the gover-nance of Europe. True, he has been present at great events the Treaty of Amsterdam, the start of enlargement to the east, above all the launch of the single currency – hut more as Rosencrantz or Guildenstern than Hamlet. No "plan Santer". no "Santer initiative", will trouble future students of the new Europe. He will be remembered only as the first Commission president to be pushed to the brink of resignation by the European Parliament.

Even the sins of fraud and nepotism for which his Commission is being held to account of life's problems cannot be are not his own. The worst Mr Santer can be accused of is not running a tight ship. In reality, his threatened departure was a measure of the imperfections of the European constitution, which gives the Strasbourg parliament the stark choice of sacking either of it. For a man thrust into a job he did not seek, it would have

been a slightly unfair end. civil servant before entering prime minister in 1989. Howthe city of Luxembourg, a post late 1970s. Silver-haired, ruddy- old baronies are reappearing.



cheeked and with a suitable The commissioners who count touch of embonpoint, he is the burgomeister made flesh. Af-

fable and easy going, Mr San-ter is a firm believer that few solved over a decent lunch. After the intense and vision-

ary Jacques who preceded him, this Jacques was probably what Europe wanted: an anti-Delors, a man from a small country who depended on his patrons (first and foremost Chancellor Helmut Kohl), someone who would the entire Commission or none not rock the boat. And until this week, he has not.

To give Mr Santer his due, in a quiet fashion - and contrary Mr Santer was a lawyer and to appearances created by the current kerfuffle - he has politics and becoming an MEP, begun to reform the Brussels party leader and eventually bureaucracy, a matter his predecessor would not stoop to atever the image that most tend to. His problem is that, lingers is that of alderman of unlike his predecessor, he is not feared by those around him. he held for three years in the Now that Mr Delors has gone,

scandal is preoccupying the media are those such as Leon Brittan, Mario Monti, Karel Van Miert, even that indefatigable headline-grabher, Emma Bonino. Mr Santer is the front-man, long on bonhomie but short on

> But if so, that is also a reflection of the times. All the prestige of Mr Delors could not mask the shift of EU power away from Brussels to national capitals, which began in earnest with the negotiation of the Maastricht treaty. The member states wanted a weak president in Brussels, and they chose one.

> Curiously, Mr Santer largely owes his appointment to the British, courtesy of John Major's veto of the favourite to succeed Mr Delors, the then Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, By a process of elimination, they arrived at Mr Santer, who had the further advantage for the government in

London of being, it was assumed, a less than ardent believer in the F-word.

As not infrequently in matters European, the British got it wrong. To call a Luxemburger a federalist is almost a tautology. How could it be otherwise in a country the size of Oxfordshire, wedged between France, Germany and Belgium, whose history has largely been written beyond its borders? In addition to the local Letzeburgesch dialect, Mr Santer speaks French and German, as well as the endearingly accented English of a continental villain from Gilbert and Sullivan. By instinct, a Luxemburger thinks European. The British had secured their lowprofile president - but not a president who would slow the EU's self-propelling momentum to-

wards greater integration. For a while, Mr Santer's sheer blandness seemed as if it might earn him a second fiveyear term. This crisis has obviously dashed those hopes; but even before the corruption charges engulfed his Commission, the political winds in Europe had moved against him. In 1994 he had the crucial backing of conservative governments in London and Bonn. Today the centre-left rules in Germany and Britain - and almost everywhere else for that matter, the new presidential photofit suggests centre-left and a large EU country. Centre-right Luxem-

burgers need not apply. And so to the present crisis, which has shown Mr Santer at his worst. Even the most genial burgomeister, especially one who is not directly elected to the job, is apt to become a mite arrogant after a while.

In truth, it would be amazing if there was no fraud in a total EU hudget of £60bn. What sticks in the craw is the hurgomeister's unconcealed feeling that the very suggestion something is amiss in the town hall is an impertinence, an indignity to which his institution should not be subjected. But it has been, and both the EU and Jacques Santer are probably the better for it.

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Release of soldiers lifts Kosovo gloom

FOR THE TIME being, at least, Kosovo has edged itself back from the brink of all-out war, as ethnic Albanian fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday freed the eight Yugoslav soldiers they had held

the village of Stari Trg, close to where they had been held since being captured last Friday. The release followed intense mediation by members of the international team who monitor the ceasefire. Just a few kilometres away waited dozens of tanks of the Yugoslav army, ready to crush this latest insurgency by force had the me-

diation efforts failed. It seemed likely, but was not immediately confirmed, that in return for the release the Yugoslav authorities have KLA members they were hold-

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

ing prisoner. Although the Serbian side said that the release was "unconditional," William Walker, the head of the moniper cent of the population of the tors, refused to give details of what he termed a "fair and bal-Serbian province. anced agreement". This condition, were handed back at implies that the KLA prisoners the table has been devised by

could be freed later as part of an amnesty, allowing Belgrade to save face and claim victory for the time being. The peaceful resolution now

gives a small - and perhaps final - breathing space for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to convert the fragile ceasefire, brokered last October by the US troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke, into a more solid truce, before spring and the advent of the Balkans' traditional combat

not good. All hope of a lasting

Kosovo settlement depends on the start of serious political talks between President Slobodan Milosevic's government in Belgrade and the ethnic Albanians, who account for 90

The one plan currently on Christopher Hill, the US special envoy to the Balkans. It calls for a restoration of the province's autonomy, but not its independence and puts off for three more years a final decision on Kosovo's status.

But talks have not begun and indeed cannot begin until the Albanians sink their internal differences and adopt a common position. If anything, however, the rift seems to be widening between the political leadership under Ibrahim Rugova, which advocates peaceful means to secure independence, and the KLA,

which has been waging a war for 18 months to throw the Yugoslavs out by force.

That rivalry could explain the murder on Monday by Maloku, the chief of the pro-Rugova Kosovo Information Centre. The KLA insists Mr Maloku, who was shot outside his home in the province's capital, Pristina, was killed by Serbs in revenge for the death of several Serb farmers and policemen in previous days. Others suspect the KLA of being behind the attack.

What is not in doubt is that the KLA has used the recent hall to boost its strength, smuggling anti-tank weapons and other arms across the border from north-western Albania, where it is in virtual control.

This means that should the fighting restart in earnest, the Serbs will no longer have it all



Giorgio Armani at the end of his Milan show revealing his antumn/winter 1999 to 2000 collection Luco Bruno

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Germany sets 'foreigners' a loyalty test

FOREIGNERS ASPIRING to BY IMRE KARACS German citizenship will have to take a language test and swear an oath of loyalty to the constitution. Those are two of the hurdles erected by the government vesterday as it strove to head off a right-wing backlash in the first reform of the racially defined German nationality law since 1913.

As the opposition Christian Democrats geared up for a na- About half of the 4 million mitional petition against the new law, Otto Schily, the Interior Minister, tried to allay fears that the abolition of "blood right" would water down Germanness. "Citizenship is not a oneway street," he said. "The born in Germany. These new government expects those naturalised to respect our social order and make an effort with

The wannabe Germans will have to be model citizens. Applicants must have no criminal record, they can be disqualified if they are living off social security, and will also face political vetting. The purpose of that last rule, Mr Schily said, was to

ensure that "Islamic funda-

mentalists, for example, are The opposition and some of the media have made much of the threat of alien conflicts spilling into German streets, as witnessed in the past when

Kurds clashed with Turks.

grants eligible under the new

law come from Turkey. The most important change will see German citizenship automatically bestowed upon third generation "foreigners" subjects would be allowed to keep dual nationality for the first time. Adults will be able to dence, as opposed to the 15 years required at present. Foreigners married to Germans may apply after two years of

Until now, only those of German ancestry could be certain of a German passport.

Lawyer dies in love triangle

A 34-YEAR-OLD lawyer walked By JOHN LICHFIELD into a fashionable restaurant in the centre of Toulouse on Monday night, ordered a glass of champagne, took one sip and

Just over an hour earlier, nother lawyer had been shot three times, and seriously wounded, by someone who had lain in wait for him outside his office, and it did not take police long to establish a link between the two incidents. The wife of the man who committed sui-

cide, Maître Jean-Charles Ruf-

fié, was also a lawyer who worked for the victim of the earlier attack, Maitre Patrick Abgrall, 47. Police believe that Mr Ruffie suspected - perhaps wrongly - that his wife was having an affair with Mr Abgrall.

Monigue Brocard, head of the Toulouse bar association, commented: "The fact that those involved are lawyers is irrelevant. Personal passions exist beneath lawyers' robes."



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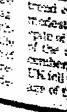
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Senate trial: As Hillary pays the price of one of his affairs, President Clinton faces the consequences of another

'I trust the right thing will be done'

By MARY DEJEVSKY

WITH HIS impeachment trial only hours away, President Bill Clinton broke his public silence on the matter vesterday to say that he trusted the Senate to do "the right thing" and would continue to concentrate on his iob as President.

Demonstrating yet again his famed capacity to "compart-mentalise", Mr Clinton told reporters: "The important thing for me is to try to spend as little time thinking about that as possible ... I trust the right thing will be done and I think that meanwhile I need to work on the business of the people."

Mr Clinton's agreement to respond to reporters' questions at the start of a White House meeting with trade union leaders was seen as a small concession by the White House after an explosion of correspondents' anger the pre-vious day about the President's general unavailability to the media. The level of access to the President has been sharply curbed since allegations about Monica Lewinsky surfaced one

Even as Mr Clinton was speaking, the White House lawyers who are spearheading his defence and the 13 "managers" from the House of Representatives who are

co-ordinating the "prosecution were completing final preparations for the trial, Proceedings in what will be only the second presidential impeachment trial, and the first this century, start in earnest at 1pm today, with opening statements

from both sides. The President's lawyers yesterday followed up Monday's delivery of their 13-page defence brief with the dispatch to the Senate of a 130-page



Linda Tripp (below): Her tape recordings revealed Bill Clinton's affair



Chief among them is that the charges against the President - perjury before a grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation and obstruction of justice in the (now settled) civil suit brought by Paula Jones - are unjustified. An accompanying argument is that even if the charges were proven, they are not serious enough to warrant removing an elected President.

"The Articles of Impeachment ..." yesterday's White House summary said, "fall far short of what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they placed in the hands of Congress the power to ... remove a Pres-

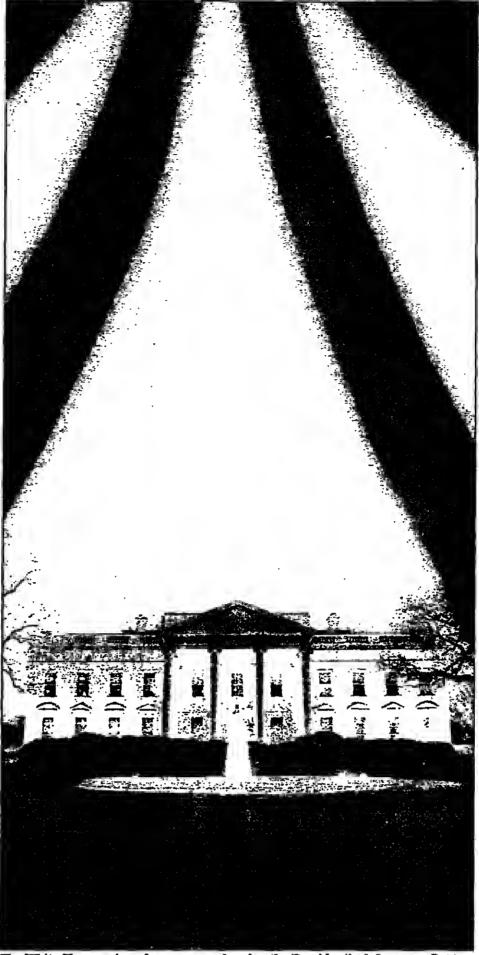
The summary also made the point - one beard repeatedly from Democrats in the House of Representatives during last year's impeachment hearings and subsequent debate - that the proceedings were politically inspired and unfair. And it proceeded to argue a wider point of principle, that convict-ing the President would irrevocahly upset the balance of the US political system.

"Removing the President on these facts," it said, "would substantially alter the delicate constitutional balance, and move us closer to a quasiparliamentary system, in which the President is elected to office by the choice of the people. hut continues in office only at the pleasure of Congress.'

The document also said that the White House lawyers would have "an urgent need" to seek additional evidence if the prosecutors tried to introduce material heyond what had aiready been collected and published in the report by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and its accompanying documents.

The White House is adamantly opposed to any extension of the trial to cover other relationships that the President may have had with employees. It also objects to the Senate calling "live" witnesses, insisting that the testimony collected by Mr Starr is sufficient. Many Republican senators, however, say they want to be able to question some of the key players, including Monica Lewinsky herself and the President's private secretary, Betty

Yesterday marked exactly a year since Mr Starr opened his investigation into the Lewinsky affair, on the basis of recordings supplied to his office by Ms Lewinsky's one-time confidante, Linda Tripp.



The White House, where lawyers are planning the President's defence. Reuters

Mrs Clinton chips in for Jones deal

FORMALLY ENDING the chap- BY MARY DEJEVSKY ter that triggered the Monica Lewinsky investigation, President Bill Clinton has paid the \$850,000 (£538,000) settlement that was the price of ending the sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Paula Jones. Contrary to expectations, almost half the money came from the Clintons' own resources, much of it saved by Mrs Clinton; the rest of the money came from an insurance policy.

According to White House sources, the Chubb insurance company, with which Mr Clinton had a policy toat included a personal liability clause, agreed to pay out \$475,000. The company had funded a part of his legal expenses in the case and funded the settlement at the cost to Mr Clinton of liquidating the policy.

Many Americans have insurance policies - whether for property, contents, or cars that include provision for legal costs and personal liability in the event of the policy holder being found liable in a lawsuit This type of insurance, which is hoth a cause and a consequence of the increasingly litigious nature of the United States, has driven up the cost of insurance in the US to the point where some companies offer discounts to limit or exclude legal costs and personal

For the remaining \$375,000, Mr Clinton drew on a blind trust - an investment portfolio held jointly by himself and his wife that had been placed under third party control for the duration of his presidency. While the source of the

money used to pay the Paula Jones settlement is essentially a private matter, the fact that it was leaked by the White House indicates it wanted the information in the public domain. The news seemed designed to convey several messages to Mr Clinton's supporters and to the public. The first was that the Pres-

ident was meeting the costs of

and was not calling on either the charitable legal defence fund set up to help to defray his legal expenses or on rich friends for a loan. Either could land him in new political

The second was that the Clintons are not without resources of their own. Much has been made of the Clintons' contention that they lost money on the speculative Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, but more than a decade ago Hillary Clinton made almost instant profits in a cattle futures venture that was recommended to her by a friend and broker.

There were also reports that Mrs Clinton was especially disappointed by the Whitewater failure because she had hoped the investment would pay for their daughter Chelsea's university fees. College fees are a hig expense for middle-class American parents.

The third message, given that the hulk of the money in the investment trust was said to come from Mrs Clinton's earnings as a lawyer in Arkansas, was that she was still "standing hy her man" - even at the cost of their future financial security. Mrs Clinton was the main hreadwinner through the Arkansas years, earning considerably more than her husband as governor of one of the poorest states in America.

The timing of the payment which was reported to have been dispatched on Tuesday by Mr Clinton's lawyers - seemed designed to ensure that the Paula Jones case was closed before the drama of the Senate impeachment trial hegins today. Ms Jones had instituted her case in 1995, stemming from an incldent in the Arkansas capital, Little Rock, four years before when, she alleged, Mr Clinton had invited her to a hotel room and asked

UN considers French plan to lift oil embargo on Iraq

THE FIRST glimpse of a possible break in the diplomatic log-jam over future United Nations policy on Iraq surfaced yesterday when the French government stepped forward with a controversial proposal to lift the eightyear oil embargo on the country and to create a scaled-down regime of weapons inspections.

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As the Security Council was preparing last night to study the three-point proposal, there were tentative indications that Britain, customarily allied with the United States in opposing any dilution of UN measures on Iraq, may be willing to consider it as a way of bridging divisions on future Iraq policy. This could leave Washington isolated at the UN.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one British official said London was not yet in a position to consider the lifting of the oil embargo. He went on to concede, however, that some tradeoff may be possible in the

Security Council involving ending the embargo and simultaneous ly placing new controls on Iraq to bar it from developing new weapons of mass destruction.

Ministry issued a statement fly zones are patrolled by both arguing that, in the wake of December's cruise missile strikes on Iraq by Britain and the US, any notion of returning to the status quo ante, involving both invasive inspections by the UN and the maintenance of all sanctions, would be unrealistic.

for the Security Council to consider that no progress can be made by an illusory resumption of previous methods," it said. Daniel Vaillant, Minister for Parliamentary Relations, added: "France is proposing something that will allow us to get out of the current impasse."

tivity yesterday over the northern Iraq no-fly zone. The Pentagon confirmed that US warplanes had fired on Iraqi anti-aircraft missile sites in the region. It was the third such incident this week. The no-In Paris, the French Foreign

American and British jets. "There are indications that coalition aircraft were fired upon at least once by at least one Iraqi surface-to-air missile," a spokesman said. "The coalition air crews acted in selfdefence." He said all coalition "France thinks that it is time planes returned safely and denied Iraqi claims that its forces

had "hit" one "enemy" plane. Under UN policy, Iraq is allowed to export a limited volume of oil. The revenue from the exports is under strict UN control and can only be spent on importing foods and medicines. It is unclear whether

The diplomatic moves co- France, which has long had an incided with fresh military ac- eye on helping Iraq to revive its

> how controls on Iraq's suspected weapons programmes could be maintained without the

oil industry, envisages maintaining such controls if the embargo itself is lifted. More vexing is the issue of

return of the Unscom inspectors, the special UN commission charged with hunting down Iraq's armaments. Clearly suggesting that Unscom itself should be shelved, Paris said it envisaged a new inspection team "under a reformed commission, in order to guarantee its independence and reinforce its professionalism". This appeared to be a swipe at Richard Butler, the Unscom chief, who has recently denied allegations that his inspectors had become infiltrated by American spies.

Leading article, Review, page 3

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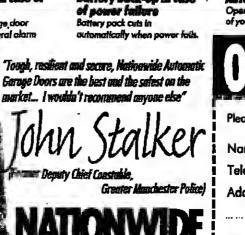


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IN BRIEF

Iran-British relationship warms

IRAN AND Britain are expected to upgrade their diplomatic ties to ambassadorial levels soon, after years of tension over the Salman Rushdie affair, an Iranian newspaper reported yesterday. It said the two countries had decided to appoint their current charges d'affaires as ambassadors. Bosnia war crimes suspect buried

THOUSANDS OF people yesterday attended the funeral of a Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect. Dragan Gagovic was sought by the UN war crimes tribunal for raping and torturing Muslim women in 1992 and 1993, but was killed hy French Nato soldiers as they tried to arrest him.

Editor held over report of 'coup' A ZIMBABWEAN editor spent his second day detained by military police yesterday after his newspaper reported on the arrest of 23 soldiers for plotting a coup. The

government has denied the report in the Standard newspaper which is edited by Mark Chavuduka, 34. Security agency bans a Furby

THE AMERICAN National Security Agency has banned a Furby, a toy resembling an owl with tufts of hair and huge pink ears from its Fort Meade premises in Maryland. It is considered a threat to national security because it contains a computer chip that allows it to record sounds.

Whodunit wife denies murder

a Valentine's Day getaway for couples with a taste for murder mysteries. The highlight was an Agatha Christie-style whodunit performed by amateur actors. with the audience participating to identify the killer. The play was a hit. However, within hours a guest was found dead.

This is the strange scenario at the heart of a murder trial in of Chesapeake Bay. Prosecutors contend that on 14 February last year, Kimberly Hricko, 32, returned to her room after the play with her husband, Stephen, and murdered him.

Mrs Hricko is accused of administering poison to her hushand. Hours before, the couple had watched how, in the play, a groom died after sipping poison-laced champagne.

THE WEEKEND was meant as BY DAVID USBORNE

Robert Dean, the prosecutor, told the jury that the couple had been having longrunning marital difficulties and that Mrs Hricko stood to collect \$200,000 (£126,000) in life assurance on her husband's According to the defence,

Mrs Hricko, who denies murder, Easton, Maryland, on the shore left the hotel alone after the play to visit friends. When she returned she found her room filled with smoke. Stephen Hricko, 35. was dead. Documents filed by the po-

lice say that Mrs Hricko had told friends that she wanted to kill her husband. She is alleged to have described how she would administer poison to paralyse him and then set fire to the room.

THE INDEPENDENT

Nigerians drive rebels from Freetown Stael

THE REBEL army that invad- BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM ed Freetown bas been driven KAMARA in Freetown into the hills surrounding the Sierra Leone capital, according African intervention force.

complete," Cdr Timothy Shelpidi said yesterday in his first briefing on the military position ary. He said there were a few bered over 1,000 - but the in-

AND ALEX DUVAL SMITH

to the commander of the West rebels hiding in the shanty towns around the Kissy area, in the east "The operation is almost of the city, but he described these as isolated pockets.

Cdr Shelpidi said the intervention force, Ecomog, had since the rebels launched their suffered only light casualties, attack on Freetown on 6 Janu- while rebel casualties num-

damage to parts of Freetown.
As the fighting died down, Sierra Leone's rebels - widely seen as ruthless and with scant popular support – moved a step nearer to political legitimacy when their leader offered a ceasefire in return for his

The Sierra Leone president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, who is being guarded by Nigerian

the conditions of the rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, through a United Nations intermediary. Mr Sankoh is being held in Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea.

It was not clear whether formai talks were being proposed by either party to end the civil war. But a senior UN representative suggested yesterday that President Kabbah was undemand. Mr Sankoh, founder of the Revolutionary United

Front, made the demand at talks in Conakry on Tuesday after being flown to Guinea from Freetown where he was being held in jail after his con-viction for high treason and murder last October.

In Freetown yesterday, where sporadic gunfire was heard as Ecomog carried out

east of the city, two Roman Catholic missionaries were released from captivity.

Ecomog said Maurizio Boa and Giuliano Pini had been used by the rebels as human shields during fighting on Monday. A Vatican spokesman said Ecomog soldiers initially assaulted the Italian priests, believing them to be European mercenaries fighting alongside

likely to agree to Mr Sankoh's house to house searches in the the rebels. A third Italian priest, Mario Guerra, was still being held by the rebels.

The UN official said that, besides his freedom, Mr Sankoh had asked for official recognition of the RUF, which has been accused by aid officials and civilians of atrocities against unarmed villagers.

Witnesses who fled eastern Freetown said the rebels had killed scores of civilians and ing women and children - dur-

ing their retreat from the city.
The UN refugee agency warned again yesterday of a possible humanitarian disaster in Freetown because hundreds of thousands of people have been trapped in their homes without water and unable to go outside to get food.

Leading article,

Judge shifts goalposts in **Anwar trial**

A MALAYSIAN judge amended By K BARANEE KRISHNAAN four corruption charges against the country's ousted finance minister Anwar Ibrahim yesterday, prompting the former cabinet member to protest he had been unfairly smeared by

sex allegations. They already stripped me naked. Now they are amending the charges," a fuming Mr Anwar said during a break in his sex and corruption trial, which is oow in its 10th week.

Mr Anwar was sacked and arrested in September, and later indicted on five counts He has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Prosecutors said their amendments involved only changes in the wording and did oot alter the thrust of the corruption charges under initial examination at the High Court.

But the defence team said bad spent over two months the judge said. producing sordid testimony. Mr Anwar's chief counsel, Raja Aziz Raja Addruse, said the prosecutors were now trying to

in Kuala Lumpur

lower onus of proof," he said. Legal experts said the prosecution was entitled to the move, but questioned its timing and motive. "The prosecution has the right to amend charges whenever it wishes, but many people are wondering why they have done so at this stage," an

independent lawyer said. Others asked why government lawyers had shamed Mr Anwar with lurid testimony if they had no intention of proveach of corruption and sodomy. ing it. "I don't know whether it was more for public consumption," said R R Chelvarajah, vice-president of the Malaysian Bar Council.

High Court Judge Augustine Paul, who is both judge and jury in the trial at the ceotre of the current political turbulence in Malaysia, sided with the prosthey narrowed the focus of the ecution. "I'm of the view that it's charges after the prosecution no real substantive change,"

Mr Anwar's defence team countered later in the day, announcing that they planned to call the Prime Minister, Maavoid proving the allegations of hathir Mohamad, and three sexual misconduct and sodomy. other cabinet ministers as wit-"They are seeking to procure a nesses in the trial. (Reuters)



Anwar Ibrahim's wife and daughter joining protesters outside the court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday Reuters

River deaths force action against graft

THE COLLAPSE of a footbridge. killing at least 40 people hurled into the river below, has finally prompted a crackdown on corruption and shoddy work in the Chinese building industry.

"How can people live when they walk on bridges or pass by buildings, thinking they may be caught in a sudden collapse of such structures?" the Construction Minister, Yu Zhengsheng, said in a report yesterday. Over the past few years there have been repeated reports of problems with poorly built bridges, but few accidents were properly detailed in the media.

But this latest disaster, whose victims included 18 soldiers out for a jog, appears to have alerted the government to the problems.

The accident happened on 4 January in Qijiang county, on the outskirts of the western city

of Chongqing. Yesterday the China Daily said four people had been detained in an investigation and two removed from their jobs. Structural problems, substandard reinforced concrete and poor maintenance were the main causes of the

collapse.

By TERESA POOLE

complaints about poor construction had risen 50 per cent since 1997.

In another case, a highway in Yunnan province was closed days after opening because of subsidence caused by shoddy construction material.

As ever in China, corruption is often the cause of such problems, Corrupt companies and officials agree to cut corners and costs and pocket the money saved. Cadres can be bribed into giving safety and completion certificates, despite the sub-standard work.

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The government is again making a determined afort to crack down on corruption generally, but the scale of the problem is overwhelming. Last year, it was announced yesterday. the country handled 108,828 cases of bribery and dereliction

Of more than 40,000 people investigated in the cases, 1,820 were government officials ranking above the county level and 7,065 were judicial and administrative officials, said Han Zhubin, the head of the Supreme People's Procura-



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THE INDEPENDENT Thursday 14 January 1999

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US political consultant advising Ehud Barak, the leader of the Israeli Labour party, is injecting fresh venom into the

The burglars entered the office of Stanley Greenberg, a prominent Democratic pollster, through an air vent and then cut a hole through the ceiling. Tal Silberstein, Mr Barak's campaign manager, said the thieves "knew exactly what they wanted because the only file taken was one dealing with the Israeli campaign".

The Israeli press yesterday compared the theft to the Watergate hurgiary of 1974 when a break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters orchestrated from the White House ultimately led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The run-up to the Israeli election, which takes place on 17 May, is particularly rancorous because the two leading candidates, Mr Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, are competing against

former colleagues. Sergeant Joe Gentile, of the District of Columbia police, confirmed that the robbers entered the offices of Greenberg Quinlan Research late on Monday night or early Tuesday and stole confidential files. He said the police and the FBI were investigating the possibility would force a number of party that "certain documents were targeted".

Several members of the

burgiary, although Aliza Goren, Mr Barak's spokeswoman. said: "We cannot point to any guilty party and certainly have no idea who did this." Likud said it hoped the thieves would be caught.

Both Labour and Likud have hired American political consultants for the coming campaign. In the 1996 election Mr Netanyahu's victory was partly credited to Arthur Finkelstein, a right-wing American consultant, who advised him no tactics and strategy. Mr Greenberg has in the past played a leading role in advising President Bill Clinton.

The Labour party milked the incident for all it was worth yesterday, but was nervous of giving the impression that its political policies were being decided in the US. It said all important decisions on the election were made in Israel.

Mr Barak's campaign is already floundering because of the emergence of centrist candidates, such as the former chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who are convinced the Labour leader cannot beat Mr Netanyahu. Mr Barak also faced a fresh row at the Labour party convention yesterday because he wants to put his own allies high up on the Labour list for the Knesset elections. That veterans out of politics.

Knesset member left the party Labour party were quick to earlier in the week because he suggest that Mr Netanyahu's was "not built to serve in the Likud party was behind the court of a one-man ruler".



Deadly harvest in an agricultural paradise

money and my belongings are burnt; but I can't live here like this; I must go back and if they kill me, they kill me." Zisa Dari is one of the 40,000 refugees driven out of Gali in the separatist Georgian province of Abkhazia by a new sweep of ethnic cleansing last May. Like many, she has moved only a few kilometres over the border to Zugdidi, the other side of the Inguri river, from where she watched the plumes of black smoke that marked the destruction of the Gali villages by the Abkhaz

Hagai Meiron, a Labour

"I HAVE nothing left, I have no ethnic Georgians from the province in favour of the minority Abkhaz, Georgia already supports more than

risk crossing back over the bor- food for my children." der to gather crops is a simple choice between extreme hardship and possible death at the fro, usually undertaken by the hands of the Abkhaz militia. Zisa and her family have decided to take the risk.

Under the presidency of Vladislav Ardzinba, the unrecognised Republic of Abkhazia has expelled almost all

300,000 displaced Georgians He tried to run for the border their villages than end their who fied during the civil war of hut died before he reached days crammed 13 to a room in

Abkhazia was known as the

"In June my husband went back to our village. On his return he was taken by the Abkhaz and beaten and tortured. **FRONTLINE**

ABKHAZIA

Zugdidi. One time I too was captured; they beat me and told garden of Russia. For the me that I was not allowed to refugees in Zugdidi, most of move on their territory; but horder shooting has taken them farmers, the decision to what can I do? I have to get

> Despite the danger, there is still a steady movement to and older female family members who are considered least at risk from the partisan groups roaming the region. Many of the older residents, like Zisa, say they prefer to risk death in returning to what remains of

a freezing schoolhouse.

Mine explosions are still a daily occurrence, and crossplace as recently as the past month. Last September, Ardzinba requested a meeting with the Georgian President, Edward Shevardnaze, amid fears that renewed hostilities would break out. The talks have yet to materialise.

News of the planned meeting has not been well received. The shooting of three United Nations observers in Sukumi

ed by many as a direct attempt to undermine the negotiations. Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia in exile, supports Mr Shevardnaze's efforts in theory, but no longer feels that anything can be achieved by peaceful negotiation. "Some 300,000 people are homeless and have waited five years to return. We have no hope that

Mr Nadareishvili supports the popular belief that the Ahkhazian separatists were strongly provoked and supported by certain factions within Russia who still oppose Georgian independence. How

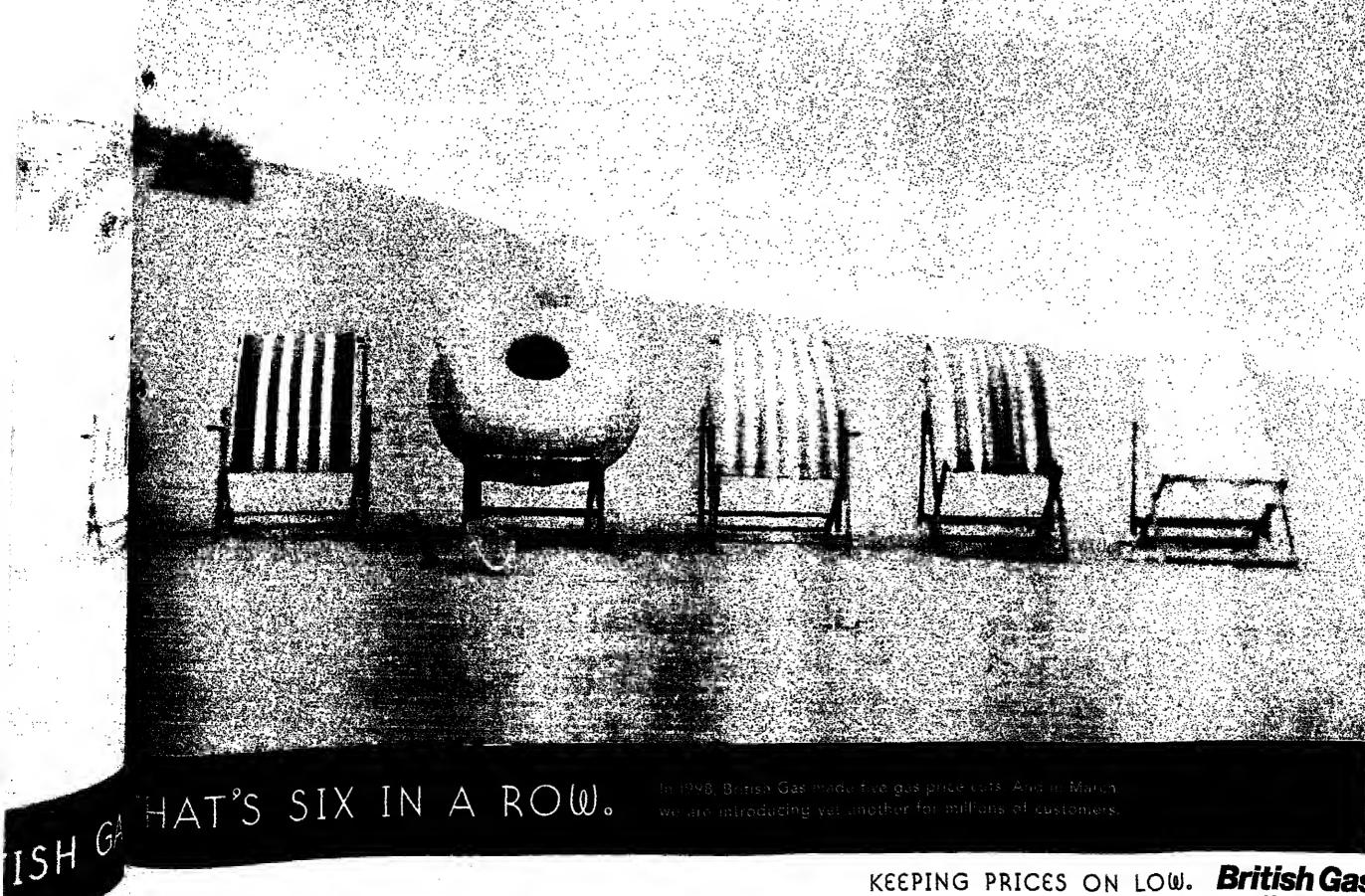
politically this will be possible

without war."

on 21 September was regard- else, he argues, could the ethnic Abkhaz, numbering only 80,000, have overthrown the majority Georgian population? While this view is shared by Zurab Zhvania, chairman of the Georgian parliament, he is swift to point out that the last thing Georgia needs is a deterioration in relations with their powerful next door neighbour.

We are extremely interested in a well-balanced, very close, economic and cultural relationship with Russia. We don't want anybody in Russia to think that we will present any threat. But we demand equal relations, and that small countries have the right to enjoy their independence."

RETTIE JUDAH



British Gas KEEPING PRICES ON LOW. Home Energy

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

iPC restructure to cut 200 staff

IPC, THE MAGAZINE publisher behind titles such as Loaded and Country Life, yesterday announced plans to cut about 200 staff and restructure its husiness into five divisions. The changes are designed to cut annual costs by about £6m. The cuts will raise fears that IPC has not been performing as well as expected since it was bought by a management team, backed by the venture capital group Cinven, for £860m twelve months ago.

Investors back BTR-Siebe merger



THE £8BN merger between the engineering groups Siebe and BTR was approved overwhelmingly by shareholders in both companies yesterday. Despite suggestions of a revolt by institutional investors over the terms of the all-paper deal, Siebe shareholders voted 99 per cent in favour while BTR shareholders backed the merger by a similar

crushing majority. The enlarged husiness, one of the biggest controls and automation groups in the world, will be run by Siebe's chief executive Allen Yurko (pictured). Siebe shareholders will own 55 per cent of the company and BTR shareholders 45 per cent.

Carpetbagger drops out

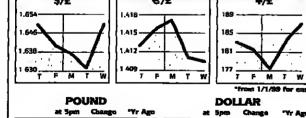
STEPHEN MAJOR, the plumber from Lisburn, Northern Ireland who tabled a proposal for Bradford & Bingley to convert to a bank, yesterday dropped out of elections to the society's board. Mr Major said he had never wanted to be a director and was bowing out to avoid mud-slinging from the media. But he said he would still campaign for the society to convert. Bradford & Bingley's 2.5 million members are due to vote on his proposal, for the society to take steps towards conversion, at an annual general

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	MIKKEI		
300 —	9700	13540		
100	9500	13480		
900	9300	13470		
700				
TPMTW	9100 T F M T W	13360 T P M T W		

		INDI		e Jones Intre	e waret Rowher	ar spe
Index	Close			52 wk high !	32 mik low Yi	eld(%)
FTSE 100	5850,10	-183,50	-3.04	6195.60	4599.20	2,76
FTSE 250	4874.40	-102.70	-2.05	5970.90	4247 60	3,41
FTSE 350	2761.10	-82 20	-2.89	2969.10	2210.40	2,86
FTSE All Share	2665.81	77.52	-2.83	2886 52	2143,53	2.91
FTSE SmallCap	2108.60	-31.20	-1.46	2793.80	1834.40	3,82
FTSE Fledgling	1165.10	15.40	-1 31	1517,10	1046.20	4.29
FTSE AIM	806,50	-6,30	-0.78	1146.90	761,30	1,25
FYSE Eurotop 100	2706.83	-116.17	-4.12	3079.27	2018.15	
FT5E Eurotop 300	1169.65	-46,26	-3.8 <u>1</u>	1332.07	880,63	1,06
Dow Jones	9295.23	-179.71	-1.90	9647.96	7400.30	1,64
Nikhei	13403.60	42,63	0.32	17352.95	12787.90	1.08
Hang Seng	10273.77	_437.79	-4.09	11926.16	6544.79	3.37
Dax	4931.80	-268.30	-5.16	6217.83	3833.71	1.74
5&P_500	. 1224,93	-14.51	-1 17	1278,05	923.32	1.29
Nasdaq	2302.97	-17.78	-0.77	2396.30	1357.09	0.30
Taronto 300	6614.40	-86.43	-1.29	7837,70	5320.90	1.64
Brazil Bovespa	5654.43	-261.12	-4.41	12339,14	4575.69	10.50
Belgium Bel20	3415.15	-81.68	-2.34	3713.21	2426.49	1,91
Amsterdam Exch	507.29	-28.95	-5.40	600.65	366,58	1,94
France CAC 40	3958.72	-141.98	-3.46	4404.94	2881.21	2.04
Milan MIB30	34218.00	-1583.00	-4.42	39170.00	24175.00	1.19
Madrid libex 35	9321.70	-688.80	-6.88	10989.80	6869.90	1.99
Irish Overall	5067.56	-166.31	-3.18	5581.70	3732.57	1,41
5 Korea Comp	633.03	1.84	0.29	651.95	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	2822.00	24.30	-0.85	2902.90	2386.70	3.16
No.	INTE	RES	TR	ATES	;	

110	EKESI KA	IES
SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
5.52 5.50 5.48 3.46 T. F. M. Y. W.	4.37 4.32 4.27 4.22 T. F. M. T. W	5.32 5.24 5.16 5.08 T. F. M. T. W.

MO	MEY N	LARK	ET RA	TES	1	BONI	YIELD:	5
Index	8 month	Yr chg	1 Your	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long band	Yr cbg
UK	5.89	-1.60	5.45	-2.03	4.29	-1.71	4.34	-1.62
US	5.03	-0.56	5.06	-0.56	4.71		5.14	
Japan	0.54	-0.18	0.55	-0.13	1.79	-0.08	2.70	0.22
Germany	3.18	-0.38	3.11	-0.72	3.71	-1.33	4.68	-0.95



	POI	JND			DOL	LAR	
	at Spm	Chango	"Yr Ago		at 5pm	Change	'Yr Ago
Dollar	1,6493	+1.82c	1.6342	Sterling	0.6063	-0.67p	0.6119
Euro	1.4102	-0.13c	1.4079	Euro	1.1700	+1.54c	1.1665
Yen	187.22	+¥4.51	214.83	Yen	113.43	+¥1.44	131.51
£ Index	99.00	+0.40	104.80	5 Index	104.00	+0.20	110.20

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		laties	Oug	Yr ago	Next figs
Brent Off (5) 11.01	-0.47	14.98	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	286.25	-2.40	283.15	RPL	164.40	3.00	159.61	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.19	-0.17	5.59	Base	Rates	6.00	7.25	

TC	URIS	TRATES	
Australia (5)	2.4834	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.56
Austria (schillings)	18.85	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0225
Belgium (francs)	55.44	New Zealand (\$)	2.8882
Canada (\$)	2.4253	Norway (krone)	11.91
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7955	Portugal (escudos)	274.12
Denmark (krone)	10.28	Saudi Arabia (riais)	5.9723
Finland (markka)	8.1744	Singapore (\$)	2.6357
France (francs)	9.0167	Spain (pesetas)	227.88
Germany (marks)	2.6933	South Africa (rands)	9.6593
Greece (drachma)	446.76	Sweden (krone)	12.51
Hong Kong (S)	12.32	Switzerland (francs)	2.2041
ireland (punts)	1.0796	Thalland (bahts)	55.29
Indian (rupees)	62.63	Turkey (Tirasi)	510690
israei (shekeis)	6.1790	USA (S)	1.6013

2670

179.09

5.9733

ltaly (lira)

Japan (yen)

Maita (Ilra)

Malaysia (ringgits)

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Brazil financial crisis sends world markets into turmoil

■ Double blow sends share prices plunging across the globe

■ \$41m bailout in doubt as Brazil abandons defence of currency

■ Concern grows over China as \$3bn debts are revealed

THE WORLD'S financial markets By DIANE COYLE, plunged into turmoil yesterday following clear signs that the crisis in emerging markets is far from over.

Brazil abandoned its attempt to defend its currency, a condition of the rescue package it negotiated with the International The move triggered the resignation of Gustavo Franco, governor of the country's central bank, and called into question the future of the \$41.5bn bailout.

The Brazilian drama followed the earlier news that Guangdong Enterprises, the Chinese government's holding company for businesses in the province, had debts of \$2.94bn. Foreign investors in those businesses will be asked to provide new capital to refinance them.

The double whammy sent stock markets reeling, although shares in London and New York recovered from earlier lows.

The FTSE 100 index closed down nearly 184 points at 5,850, having dropped as much as 287 points. By noon in New York, the Dow Jones index was 158 lower at 9,316.86, after falling as much as 261 points in early trade. The US Administration re-

acted with barely concealed nervousness to the Brazilian moves. A collapse of the Latin American economy would hit US trade very badly at a time when the trade deficit is already soaring, and problems on Wall Street would very quickly dent the Administration's reputation as a solid economic manager.

President Bill Clinton made a statement backing Brazil, and another key part of the IMF prourging it to continue with reform. gramme. He also announced "We have a strong interest in seeing Brazil, with whom we have worked on so many important things around the world, carry forward with its economic reform plan and succeed," he

US officials consulted with

ANDREW MARSHALL, LEA PATERSON AND ANDREW GARFIELD

other Group of Seven nations, and US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Larry Summers, who covers international affairs, can-Monetary Fund in November. celled a trip to New York. Mr Summers, along with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, brokered the \$41.5bn deal to prop up Brazil's economy.

The International Monetary Fund made no comment. It provided \$18bn of last year's package, of which \$5.3bn has already been disbursed. Brazil can draw another \$4.5bn by late February as long as it meets the conditions of the package.

Deputy finance ministers from the G7 countries are due to meet on Saturday, and finance ministers and central bank governors will meet in Bonn next month. The dire economic situation in Brazil and the danger that China will be the next emerging economy to plunge into crisis will be on the agenda.

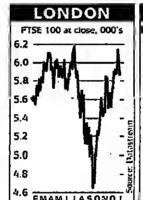
Brazil announced that its currency would trade in a new, wider range of 1.2 to 1.32 reals to the dollar, rather than the previous 1.12-1.22 reals. The rate fell immediately to the top of the new band, an effective 9 per cent devaluation. The move followed a renewal of massive capital flight, which reached \$1.2bn on Tuesday.

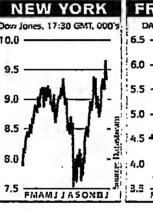
Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Brazil's president, pledged that congress would approve his government's budget-cutting plans, plans to increase the tax on financial transactions.

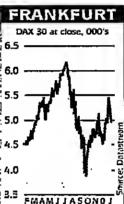
Francisco Lopes, the new central bank governor, tried to stem speculation about further devaluation, and said Brazil had almost \$45hn in foreign exchange reserves as ammunition

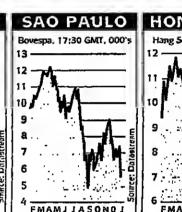


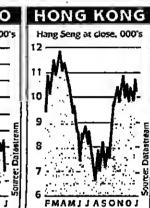
New York traders surrounding the post for Telebras, the Brazilian telephone company, yesterday. American banks have about \$25.6bn of loans to Brazil











to defend the new range.

index had fallen 10 per cent in early trading and was closed for half an hour, but recovered to a 5 per cent fall by late afternoon.

US banks have around \$74bn of loans to Latin America, of which \$25.6bn is to Brazil, according to figures published by the Federal Reserve in October. Chase Manhattan, the biggest American lender to the region

with loans of \$13.6bn and recent loan exposure at £1.3bn, less while rival Dresdoer saw its third biggest investment bank. fell \$37 to \$70. Citigroup which is Brazil's eighth largest private sector bank fell \$6.75 to \$49.

In London, National Westminster Bank was the hardest hit, its share price falling 10 per cent at one point, despite having minimal exposure to Latin America. Lloyds puts its total Brazilian loans outstanding. Stock markets in Madrid and

Lisbon, perceived as having the

largest exposure to Latin Amer-

ica, were worst hit. Madrid's benchmark index tumbled by 6.8 per cent, while in Portugal leading shares fell by 3.7 per cent. In Germany shares in Deutsche Bank fell 7.3 per cent, near-record lows.

The Bovespa share price owner of Banco Patrimonio de than 0.8 per cent of total assets: shares tumble by 8.1 per cent. Investimentos, the country's HSBC has around \$2.5bn of The benchmark Dax Xetra index closed down 214.01 points. or 4.1 per cent, at 4982.12. In the Far East, concerns

> Kong's Hang Seng index down 437.79 points to close at 10,273.77. Investor flight to quality sent US and Western European bonds soaring, and yields fell to

about China's debts sent Hong

Green still wants Sears despite investor handout

PHILIP GREEN, the retail en- BY NIGEL COPE trepreneur stalking Sears, is Associate City Editor still interested in launching a formal bid for the company and will reveal his hand in the next few days. The news came after Sears announced a downbeat Christmas trading statement and the sale of its Creation store card

It has sold the former Sears Card operation to two French banks for £141m. Sears shareholders will receive a special payment of 141p per share, a far higher figure than earlier estimates. Sears also said it is in discussions regarding the sale of a number of properties with net book value of £134m.

Though Sears seemed configuns", the retail entrepreneur appeared undaunted yesterday. company in Apr "They've given money to every-them in charge?"

one else so it's about time they gave some to the shareholders," be said. "But it doesn't change anything. We are studying the position. I will be discussing the situation with my advisers and we'll take it from there." Mr Green has just returned

to Britain after spending the Christmas holidays abroad. He has already had a 340p approach rejected as the board felt it had too many conditions attached. However, it is by no means certain that Mr Green will increase his price.

As one analyst commented: "Given the Sears management dent it had "spiked Mr Green's track record so far, would you rather have 340p or 141p for the company in April and leave



Sir Bob Reid (left), chairman of Sears, has not succeeded in spiking the guns of Philip Green

Sears has sold its Creation Financial Services division to Groupe Cofmoga and Banque National de Paris. The £141m price tag was higher than earlier expectations of £110m-£120m.

Sears' trading statement showed that the group is contiming to suffer from fragile consumer confidence and a weak portfolio of formats. In the 23 weeks to 9 January its clothing division, which takes in Miss Selfridge, Richards and Adams

childrenswear, saw sales increase 5 per cent on last year, but fall 1 per cent on a like-forlike basis. Over the same period sales at Freemans, Sears' mailorder operation, fell 5 per cent.

Mr Green had been waiting to see the trading update before making his next move. His key challenge is to win over Sears' major shareholder, Philips & Drew, which holds 24 per cent.

through the engineering sector yesterday after Morgan Crucible, the industrial ceramics group, issued a profits warning and announced 1,000 iobs losses worldwide.

The warning sent Morgan Crucible shares down by 30 per cent and prompted sharp falls in other engineering stocks, the worst hit being other companies exposed to overseas markets.

Morgan Crucible said that profits for the year just ended would be 15-20 per cent lower than the £108m recorded in the previous year. The group said it was responding with a "major attack" on overheads and manning levels and the disposal of businesses with combined turnover of £200m-£300m a year.

The 1,000 redundancies will cost the group £15m and will be spread across Europe, Asia and America. The group declined to say how may job losses there would be the UK where it employs 4,000 out of a group total of 15,000. Vic Maundrell, the board di-

rector running the group's technical ceramics division, is also stepping down and is in line for a pay-off of up to £360,000. He is on a two-year contract and earned £180,000 last year.

Ian Norris, chief executive, said that the group had been hit by a downturn in orders from several of its major customers. including the steel, semiconductor, car and aerospace industries. However, Morgan Crucible is maintaining its dividend and says it is optimistic that profits will increase in the second half of this year.

SHOCK WAVES reverberated By MICHAEL HARRISON

Morgan Crucible shares fell 70p to 183.5p, wiping £182m from its market capitalisation. Other engineering stocks fell in its wake, with Bodycote off by 9 per cent, IMI off by 8 per cent, Cookson by 7 per cent and Johnson Matthey by 6 per cent.

November and December are usually highly profitable months for Morgan Crucible

steel imports meant that fewer hlast furnace refurbishments were carried out, reducing demand for Morgan Crucible's refractory products.

production problems at Boeing. In semiconductors, destocking and deferral of orders led to a £12m reduction in business while currency translation knocked another £3.5m off prof-

Morgan Crucible said the downturn had been "swift and savage," adding that the costcutting measures it had now put in place would hit profits in the

But it forecast that benefits would begin to flow through in the second six months and would then add "significantly" to profits in future years, provided that there was no

Jobless fall 'just a statistical blip'

THERE WAS an unexpected By LEA PATERSON piece of good news for the Government yesterday as unemployment fell to its lowest level in almost two decades.

But economists warned that iobless totals would almost certainly rise again in coming months, and said the figures should be no barrier to another UK interest-rate cut.

The number of people claim-

ing benefit tumbled by 14,000 in

December to 1.31 million, the

lowest level since June 1980.

Unemployment also fell on the

Government's preferred ILO

measure, a more broadly-based

estimate of the johless total. A

sharp fall in the number of women out of work helped to take the ILO measure down by 26.000 to 1.79 million between September and November.

Employment reached record levels, said the Office for National Statistics, with services industries such as banking and finance leading job creation. But jobs continued to be lost in manufacturing: in the three months to November the number of manufacturing jobs was 1.5 per cent lower than in the same period in 1997, according to official figures.

pected a rise in both measures of unemployment, called the fall in the jobless total a statistical blip. Some said mild December weather may have boosted the construction industry. Others attributed the fall in unemployment to the Government's

welfare-to-work programme. Sudhir Junankhar, associate director of economic analysis at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The slight falls in underlying unemployment are welcome but seem unlikely to continue given other evidence of an increasing rate-setting Monetary Policy

City analysts, who had ex- ther interest-rate cuts are still needed to stave off the danger of an outright recession." Ken Wattret at Paribas said:

"The real economy tells us that things will be pretty nasty in the first and second quarters. From the perspective of interest rates, nothing has really changed." Dharshini David at HSBC

said: "Surveys indicate that employment will fall and unemployment rise over the coming months. Services job creation in particular is likely to tail off." The data would have a limited impact on the slowdown in the economy. Fur- Committee, said Ms David.

profit warning

Morgan shares

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but last year the group was hit by cuts in inventory levels and deferment or order into the new In the US, the influx of Asian

The group was also affected by the rescheduling of component orders following the General Motors strike and

its because of the strong pound.

first half of the current year. further marked deterioration in

trading.
Outlook, page page 17

Brazilian crisis mean for Western markets? Its most obvious lesson is the same as that of the Asian and Russian crises are serious a one as Russian crises as serious a one as Russian crises that of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the basin and Russian crises is increased with liquidity, the moment of the basin and Russian crises is that of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the basin sing volumes. As PC sales grow, the now an OFT investigation into PC increased with liquidity, the moment of the basin state and lower of the basin state of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the basin state of the Asian and Russian crises is that of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the basin state of the Asian and Russian crises is partly because it was so with liquidity, the moment of the company's Freeserve success and the launch of digital television. The province of the Brazilian crisis doesn't appear as serious a one as Russian crises in the Brazilian crisis doesn't appear as serious a one as Russian crises in the Brazilian crisis doesn't appear as serious a one as Russian crises in liquidity, the moment of provinces. As PC sales grow, the nove an OFT investigation into PC investigation into PC investigation into PC investigation on the basin stead the complaining on the back of the through the company's Freeserve success and the launch of digital television. The province of the Brazilian crisis doesn't appear as serious a one as Russian crises in increased volume leads to province. Not that Dixons shareholders of the company's Freeserve success and the launch of digital television. The province of the basin as the liquidity of the back of the basin and function of the later of the basin and function of the back of the company'

into these countries is an entirely pointless and largely inappropriate policy response.

On all three occasions now, the money has ended up going full circle; the capital injection has helped finance a massive capital withdrawal. Far from supporting these countries in their hour of need, it has merely gone towards bailing out Western creditors. Plainly this is not good use of taxpayers' money.

In the case of Brazil, the lesson is a doubly poignant one, since parts of the G7, mainly Germany backed to some extent by Britain. opposed the package on precisely these grounds - that private, mainly western, creditors were taking none of the pain. It was the US, whose banks and companies have most to lose from a Latin American meltdown, that bulldozed the proposals through.

In effectively devaluing the real, Brazil has acted unilaterally. So despite their assistance, the IMF and the Federal Reserve are no longer



OUTLOOK

in control of the process, and there-fore end up looking even more silly than they did before. The IMF was never intended as a mechanism for refinancing western creditors and markets, but that is what its purpose seems to have become. As first Russia and now Brazil have shown. the IMF cannot even expect these countries to stick to their side of the bargain nowadays. The IMF has become a laughing stock, and an easy touch at that.

The Brazilian crisis, then, has once again highlighted the inadequacies of the international safety net operated by the IMF. A safety net for who? The developing world

"yawn, here we go again" in-evitability about it. That western stock markets should have been badly hit by yesterday's devaluation was therefore something of a

To the extent that Western creditors and banks haven't covered their exposure to the region by trousering the IMF's money, they may have already largely provided for it. Furthermore, if the Brazilian government can push through its proposed austerity package, it may be able to hold the devaluation within the limits set yesterday. The free fall in the value of the currency that occurred in the Far East and Russia might be avoided. On the negative side, Brazil, and

ssibly the rest of the region too, are now almost certain to sink into recession. That makes the US's position as what Lombard Street Research pointedly calls "consumer of last resort" even more key to maintaining the overall health of the world economy.

Obviously Wall Street valuations has led to plunging prices for com-

hit longer yet to be proved correct.

Dixons fever

THERE WERE two striking features about Dixons' results yesterday. One was the continued soaraway success of the group's Freeserve internet service provider. The other was price deflation. The latter is beginning to strike home across a huge range of different product areas. But nowhere is it more evident than in electrical goods.

Take personal computers. A couple of years ago a decent, high specification PC would have set you back a good £1,800. Last year it would have cost around £1,200 and you would probably have got more features, more software and possibly a free printer thrown in. Now you can pick up a reasonable PC for £500 from some supermarkets.

There are several reasons for this. One is the Asian crisis, which Dixons may have 20 per cent of the UK market, but competition is rising, from the supermarkets and direct sellers such as Tiny and Time which have set up their own high

retail chains. Most retailers regard price deflation as a bete noire, but for Dixons there may be benefits. One is that as PC penetration grows, it means Dixons and others are likely to enjoy higher sales of peripherals and software. Another is that it seems unlikely that Dixons passes on the full benefit of product price deflation to consumers immediately. So there is at least the potential to widen margins.

Dixons would dispute this, of course, saying that competition in the market is far too tough to eoable such practices to go unpunished. But it was only a couple of months ago, remember, that Intel, the chip maker blamed Dixons for using its market dominance to overcharge for PCs. That prompted Peter Mandelson (remember

and the launch of digital television, its shares have soared by almost 80 per cent since October. Certain "conehead" technology analysts even believe we could be looking at the next Yahoo! A nice thought, though Dixons might have a little way to go yet before its brand name commands quite that kind of global recognition.

Morgan Crucible

IT WAS somehow fitting that the hombed-out engineering sector should feel the shock waves from yet another profits warning on the very same day that shareholders voted through the Siebe-BTR merger:

Morgan Crucible's warning that profits will be 15-20 per cent lower than the previous year is either down to bad luck or bad judgement. Normally it can rely upon hard times in one industry or one country to be offset by good times elsewhere. On this occasion, however,

Boeing and a General Motors strike all at the same time. But traders still took their cue from Morgan Crucible's pot pourri of woes and marked shares lower across the sector.

Despite its sequence of misfortunes, Morgan Crucible is valiantly maintaining the dividend and relying upon 1,000 redundancies, a spot of corporate surgery and the obligatory boardroom departure to put the vessel back on course.

The engineering sector as a whole is now trading on a yield 50 per cent higher than the all-share index and a multiple which is 41 per cent below the average. The message is umistakable. The market believes the outlook for engineering earnings to be insufficient to maintain dividends. The solution Siebe and BTR have opted for is a merger which should chop £250m from costs by year three. Sharebolders in BTR voted it through with a heavy heart, but giveo the parious state of the sector, it is surely a route that others will be forced to follow.

Dixons thrives on PCs | Pearson in talks and mobile phones

BY NIGEL COPE **Associate City Editor**

DIXONS, the electrical retailer whose shares have soared on the success of its Freeserve ", ernet access service, eu-juyed a further boost yesterday when the company reported increased interim profits, a solid Christmas trading statement and the creation of 2,000 new

Dixons shares, which have risen by more than 70 per cent since October, added 44p to close at 958p yesterday, when the company said same store sales in the eight weeks covering Christmas and New Year were 3 per cent higher than the ne periou iast year.

The figures were supported by strong sales of personal computers, which have fallen dramatically in price, as well as robust sales of mobile phones, digital cameras and PC software. "Traditional" electrical goods such as washing machines and freges have performed less well Sales of analogue television sets and video recorders have also been weak as shoppers wait for new digital versions to become available.

John Clare, Dixons' chief executive, said: "Consumers have got the money but they lack confidence and fear a slowdown. If you've got new products that are exciting then they will spend. But they won't spend their money on replacement products."

Price deflation has been a significant factor in the electricals market, particularly in computers and audio-visual products. This has led to increased sales but lower margins, which fell by half a percentage point.



John Clare: 'Consumers have money but lack confidence'

ranging from £700 to £800. Now they are down to as low as £500. Over the year, Dixons' average PC transaction had fallen from

Mr Clare said computer and remote-controlled televi- including £10m for the inteprices before Christmas were sion prices are now as low as £90. gration of the Seeboard retail

Pre-tax profits in the six months to 14 November were up by 5 per cent to £81m. excluding exceptional items. Ex- terim dividend was increased £1,200 to £800. In video recorders ceptional charges totalled £12m by 21 per cent to 3.5p.

Peter Macdiarmid operation acquired in June last year. Retail sales increased by 11 per cent to £1.4bn. The in-

on German link PEARSON, the newspapers and BY PETER THAL LARSEN television group, is in talks with the German media giant a number of options for ex-

Bertelsmann about setting up a new German-language financial newspaper.

Gruner + Jahr, Bertelsnann's newspaper and magazine division, yesterday confirmed that it is discussing the project with executives from

Pearson's Financial Times. Talks are still at an early stage, and the two companies are considering a range of different options. However, a spokesman for Gruner said the project would cost up to 92m Euros (564m) and lead to the recruitment of between 80 and 100

Last weekend Pearson confirmed that It had asked Andrew Gowers, deputy editor of the Financial Times, to look at line versions of its game shows.

pansion

The initiative demonstrates Pearson's determination to build on the reputation of the FT outside the UK. The paper is currently in the middle of a £50m investment designed to boost sales. Circulation in the US recently hit 70,000 and the paper now sells more copies outside the UK than inside. Gruner + Jahr publishes newspapers inchiding the Berliner Zeitung and magazines such as the Ger-

man version of Marie Claire. The news emerged as Pearson announced it had taken a 10.9 per cent stake in E-Pub, a US based online entertainment group, and signed an agreement allowing E-Pub to develop on-

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IN BRIEF

Acorn reinvented as Element 14

ACORN, the former computer maker, today takes a major step towards reinventing itself as a semiconductor group by changing its name to Element 14. The company chose the name because Silicon - the base material used in computer chips - is the 14th element in the periodic table. Stan Boland, chief executive, said the Acorn name no longer reflected the company's work or the markets it is moving into.

Dudley Jenkins agrees to £81m bid

DUDLEY JENKINS, the direct marketing group, yesterday agreed to a 580p a share bid from Wegeoer Arcade, a Dutch newspaper and music group. The bid, which values Dudley at £80.6m, has been accepted by directors and other shareholders representing 54.1 per cent of Dudley's share capital. Wegener intends to use Dudley to achieve industry leadership in the European direct marketing industry.

Chiroscience wins US approval

THE ADVISORY committee of the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended approval for the use of Chiroscience's Chirocaine drug as a local anaesthetic for surgery and childbirth without the need for a label box warning against possible side-effects. The recommendation is not binding, but chief executive John Padfield is confident that the drug will be on sale in the US by the second half of the year. Zeneca, which has world marketing rights, may drop the drug if its plans to merge with Astra of Sweden go through: Astra makes the main rival to Chirocaine.

Oftel plan threatens free Net access

planning wholesale changes to the cost of Internet calls in a move that could undermine the viability of Freeserve, the new free Internet service from Dixons, just four months after it was launched.

Oftel, the telecoms watchdog, will next month issue a paper outlining changes to the regime covering calls to local rate numbers. The paper will suggest that local operators the Net, has taken off since it such as British Telecom and was launched in September.

THE TELECOMS industry is BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Cable & Wireless Communications should keep a greater proportion of the cost of the calls than currently allowed.

If accepted, the proposal would raise the cost of Internet access and threaten the profitability of services such as Freeserve. The scheme, under which Internet users pay nothing but local call costs to surf

Yesterday, Dixons said the service had signed up 900,000 new users, making it the largest Internet service provider in the UK ahead of America Online

The changes being mooted by Oftel mean Freeserve could have to start charging. Oftel is responding to complaints that the surge of Internet users is overloading local networks. The problem stems from

the Number Translation Ser-

vice (NTS), the scheme that de-

cides how the cost of a local call is divided between BT and the company operating the local call rate service. BT currently keeps a third of the cost of the call - enough to cover its basic costs but not to make a profit.

now rely on the NTS regime to subsidise their service. BT and the cable operators complain that the explosion of Internet traffic is clogging up their networks with no financial incentive to invest in new capacity.

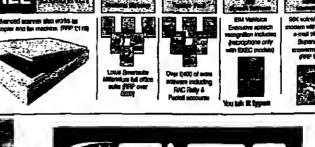
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Anglia house prices rise fastest

London and the South-east as the region with the fastest-rising house prices, according to a quarterly survey of the housing market by the Halifax.

Houses in East Anglia rose in price by 4 per cent in the last quarter of 1998 alone, averaging £70,374. Prices in the Southeast rose by 3.2 per cent, while

gions suffered house price de-

EAST ANGLIA has overtaken By ANDREW VERITY

flation in the last three months of 1998, with prices dropping 1.5 cent in the North-west.

Halifax said the underlying trend continued to be one of modestly rising inflation, in activity on the high street was spite of recent dips in the price of the average home. In De-Greater London saw inflation of cember, prices throughout the just 1.5 per cent. Northern reage of £73,124.

In the year to December the biggest annual price rises. 1998, the average price of a UK home rose by 5.5 per cent. Halifax predicts prices will still rise per cent in the North and 0.7 per by 4 per cent in the coming year.

Estate agents normally expect a bill in the property market before Christmas. But even slower than expected at the end of last year, lenders

There the average bomeowner gained £6,000 last year, as the mean price rose 12.2 per cent to £61,836. The North-South divide, where prices in the South race ahead of the rest of the country, has begun to close. But the gap is still evident. Prices in Greater London - where the average home costs £110,961 rose by 8.2 per cent over the Homeowners in Northern year compared to 2 per cent Ireland have benefited from further north.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 14 January 1999

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THE INDEPENDENT

Brazil's day of reckoning comes despite the bailout

News Analysis: The \$41bn rescue package from the IMF was just putting off the inevitable

BY DIANE COYLE **Ecocomics Editor**

THERE IS no more sure sign of an impending crisis than capital flight. Ever since it reached agreement two months ago on a \$41hn rescue package led by the International Monetary Fund, Brazil has been kissing goodbye to billions of dollars fleeing to safer havens overseas.

In December, it was more than \$5bn. Up to Tuesday about \$1bn had left in January, with another \$1.2ho on Tuesday itself. Altogether, the total capital flight in recent months has passed the \$50bn mark.

No wonder Professor Rudiger Dornbusch at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has joked that the IMF's new telephone number is 1-800-BAILOUT Yesterday's devaluation, resignation of the central bank governor and financial market implosion in Brazil confirmed the worst fears of the Fund's critics. Its rescue package, pumping in taxpayers' funds, had given investors enough time to get their money out of Brazil before what many saw as an inevitable speculative attack on the currency.

The emergency loan, of which the UK's share amounts to \$1bn, was due to be doled out to the Brazilian government in tranches subject to it satisfying the terms of an IMF adjustment programme. The second in-Pitalment is due to be handed over next month.

tide the country over on its repayments on international loans, mostly short-term, of which \$60bn will come due during 1999. In effect, the IMF would ensure that commercial banks and other investors in Brazil got paid on old loans so that they would continue to make new loans.

The plan was controversial. with little support among the governments of the G7 leading economies. Some, including France and Germany, were hitterly opposed. They argued that it created more "moral hazard", whereby banks would cootinue to make too many risky loans on the assumption the authorities would always bail

The decision to fix the Brazil-





flight, it is too late for the coun-

try to escape a severe shortage

of funds. Service on its debts this

year will amount to nearly three-

quarters of its export earnings,

themselves under threat from

low commodity prices. Interest

rates will have to remain high

plunging the economy into a

Professor Dornbusch, who

predicted back in November

that the agreement with the IMF

would merely postpone the cri-

sis, recommends a curreocy

board for Brazil. Guaranteeing

a fixed exchange rate against

the dollar through this mecha-

nism - which would tie every

real in circulation to reserves of

the US currency - is the only

credible exchange rate policy

left, in his view. The government

must also balance its budget and

start a root-and-branch reform

If things look bleak for Brazil

broader outlook is little brighter.

International efforts to prevent

financial crises failed in Asia,

failed in Russia and have now

failed in Latin America too. The

IMF is sure to come under re-

newed criticism over its crisis-

markets bounce back once again

in weeks to come, the already-

disrupted flow of capital to

emerging economies could dry up entirely. The flow of invest-

\$250bn. For Brazil, the danger

that its creditors will refuse new

loans could force it to default -

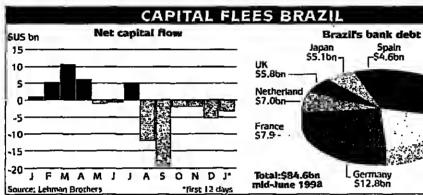
And even if leading stock

management

of the economy, he says.

deeper recession.

Gustavo Franco (left) who quit as Brazil's central bank president, and Francisco Lopes, the deputy who replaces him, at a press conference yesterday. Brazil may now be forced to renegotiate foreign debts



The loans were intended to ian currency, allowing it to depreciate only in tiny steps, was also unwelcome. Brazil has a huge balance of payments deficit amounting to 4 per cent of its gross domestic product, and without a devaluation it would stay bigger for longer, increasing the country's need for foreign capital.

But strong US support, given the exposure of the US banking system to Latin America, swung the day. The alternative to the IMF rescue, it was argued, was a new panic in the international financial markets, hard on the heels of Russia's default and the collapse of Long-Term Capital Management. In addition, Brazil's legacy of

hyperinflation - peaking at more than 2,700 per cent a year in the

duction of a new currency, the real, in 1994, made President Cardoso reluctant to contemplate a big devaluation.

Yet only days after the formal agreement with the IMF had been signed last month, the rescue plan ran into trouble. Brazil's congress voted against the first measures Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the President, had proposed to cut government spending and raise taxes. The plan to cut the deficit from 8 per cent to 5.5 per cent of GDP - equivalent to a reduction of more than \$20bn-fell at the first hurdle.

Combined with interest rates of around 30 per cent, the plan certainly set Brazil on course for a recession this year. The IMF downgraded its forecast from 2 per cent growth in GDP to a 1

per cent fall in 1999, and other forecasters are more pessimistic. For example, HSBC was predicting a 2.1 per cent drop before yesterday's crisis.

According to David Lubin, HSBC's Latin American economist, now that the IMF loan and fiscal adjustment have failed, the only alternative is a devaluation and renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debts. "There is after yesterday's events, the no alternative now to making private lenders share some of the pain," he said. Others reckoo that the gov-

ernment and international authorities will be reluctant to take this route, and will instead try to shore up the credibility of the existing package. Anna Gaworsewska of Lloyds Bank said: "I think everything possihle would be done to avoid a negotiation of external debt."

To clear the way for an overment fell to a meagre \$67bn in haul of the foreign exchange regime, Brazil's central bank 1998, compared with a peak of president, Gustavo Franco, quit yesterday and was replaced by his deputies.

ough Brazil might be an event that would ratchet up ed to introduce tough cap-ntrols to prevent further the two-year international financial crisis another ootch.

A DAY like yesterday, with the Footsie losing some 5 per cent, is one of those days when people tend to pooder questions about the valuation of equities. Are shares really worth 5 per cent less than they were a few hours earlier? Which of the many forms of valuing shares are more appropriate? Is there such a thing as a fundamen-

I would not pretend to be able to answer these questions, but I have found a couple of recent papers extremely helpful in sorting out the various issues that equity valuation involves. One focuses on the UK, the other

tal valuation?

The UK paper actually comes from Montreal, from the latest issue of The International Bank Credit Analyst. Myles Zyblock, one of the editors, concludes that the period of under-performance of UK equities is about to come to an end. Under-performance? Yes, the market has done pretty well in absolute terms but relative to the US our market has oot dooe well during the 1990s. This is in sharp contrast to the 1980s. when UK shares did much

better than US. The argument developed here is that the great burst of share prices during the 1980s was in response to the supplyside reforms of the British economy that took place. True, similar reforms also occurred in the US, but because the UK economy started from so much lower a base, there was more scope for improvement. This was recognised by the markets, which duly

marked shares up. During the 1990s, however, it was US industry that carried out the great restructuring. There were several aspects to this: takeovers and mergers, downsizing of workforces, a surge in investment, particularly in information technology. This has improved performance, which again has been reflected in share prices.

However, there are weaknesses in the US corporate scene. Profits have not done as well as headlines suggest, as recent earnings growth

of period when equipment outperform bonds.



Are shares really

worth less today?

MCRAE

UK shares have relatively little doumside risk. at least relative to US securities

By contrast, there is more scope for increases in the earnings of UK companies. Investmeot is growing and the wage bill is falling. Corporate profits as a share of GDP are close to the peak of the late 1980s. Further, falling bond yields have made UK equities look cheap relative to bonds. Only on four occasions in the last 50 years have shares looked so cheap relative to

The moral of all this is that UK shares have relatively little downside risk and coosiderable upside potential, at least relative to US securities. Expect short-term volatility, but build modest UK positions and sell US ones.

Implicit in this view is the assumption that US shares are overvalued. That has certainly been the positioo of the Bank Credit Analyst team for some time. A more developed analysis of US equity market valuations comes from Sushil Wadhawani, currently at Tudor Investment Corporation, previously equity strategist at Goldman Sachs, and ooe of the most thought-provoking market analysts here

The core ideas of his paper, The US Stock Market and the Global Economic Crisis", to be published in next month's National Institute Economic Review, are: first, that the US equity market is indeed highly valued by historical standards; second, that there are above-average risks associated with the world economy at the moment I suppose Brazil counts as one of those;

Long term real return on US equities

% compound real anual return

in London.

and third, that holders of US equities are not being compensated for those risks by having low prices.

Of course none of this precludes the possibility that US shares might go higher in the short-term; nor does it mean that equities are a bad in-

vestment long-term. Indeed one of the most fascinating aspects of Dr Wadhawani's work is the historical data that he has unearthed oo just what a good investment US equities have been over a very long period. Look at the graph on the left. That shows the percentage of periods between 1802 and 1996 when stocks have outperformed boods. As you can see, in any one year there has been 60 per cent chance that equities will do better than bonds; over any 10-year period it has been 80 per cent. And over any 30-year period it is virtually 100 per

Now look at the graph on the right, which looks at the total real return oo US equities over very long periods. (That is the capital gain or loss, plus or minus dividend income, adjusted for inflation and compounded)

The astonishing thing here is that returns are extremely stable at around 7 per cent. Take the 1802-1870 period: it was exactly 7 per ceot. Take 1871 to 1925: 6.6 per cent. Take 1926 to 1997: 7.2 per cent. Only if you take shorter periods do you get notably differeot results. If you take 1966 to 1981, returns were negative. And finally, take 1982 to 1997 and returns have been nearly

13 per cent. The common-sense conclusion from this would, I suppose, be that the last 15 or so years have been compensating for the poor returns of the previous 15 years. Things are, so to speak, back to normal. But it also means that anyone whose memory of the market lasts only 15 years will have had what has been historically a very unusual experience: double the usual returns. One could go on and argue that the

experience of the market since the end of 1997 (i.e. outside the period in the study) has further stretched share prices beyond their long-term trend.

Dr Wadhawani develops the argument much further. looking at various justifications for the present level of US share prices and testing each of these. But perhaps the hig lesson of both these studies is simply that, while equities are and will remain the best place for people to hold savings over a very long period, timing entry into and exit from any share market is of overwhelming importance.

Is investment just timing, then? Perhaps. But maybe

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-dîv_
Birmingham City (F) Dissus Group (I) Dudiey Jackins Group (I) Fl Group (I) Helton Hokings (I) Voga Group (I) (F) - Final (I) - Interior	8.337m (7.622m) 1.455b (1.316m) 13.427m (13.425m) 108.86m (71.23m) 97.32m (84.21m) 12.870m (10.399m)	3.668m (1.125m) 68.8m (76.3m) 2.304m (1.651m) 7.54m (4.31m) 6.3m (5.74m) 1.428m (0.805m)	-7.23p (2.52p) 11.6p (12.5p) 11.53p (8.12p) 2.62p (1.66p) R 9.34p (8.22p) 6.10p (3.49p)	- (+) 3.5p (2.9p) 2.9p (2.0p) 0.63p (0.43p) Br 3.0p (2.1p) 2.13p (1.91p)	06.04.99 12.04.99 07.04.99 18.03.99 25.02.99	01.03.99 25.01.99 25.01.99 25.01.99 25.01.99

Savings of up to

50%* for business

travellers at hotels

throughout the UK

early 1990s - until the intro-

er (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-dîv
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.316m)	68.9m (76.3m)	11.6p (12.5p)	3.5p (2.9p)	06.04.99	01.03.99
13.425m)	2.304m (1.651m)	11.53p (8.12p)	2.9p (2.0p)	12.64.99	25.01.99
71.23m)	7.54m (4.31m)	2.62p (1.66p)	0.63p (0.43p)	07.04.99	25.01.99
34 21mi	6.3m (5.74m)	R 9.34p (8.22p)	IR 3.0p (2.1p)	18.03.99	25.01.99
10.399m)	1.428m (0.805m)	6.10p (3.49p)	2.13p (1.91p)	25.02.99	25.01.99

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Dover Grimsby Havant Leeds/Selby Peterborough Portsmouth Sheffield Stevenage

Heathrow London Gatwick London Bloomsbury London – Regent's Park Kensington Hampstead

Aberdeen Ashford **Basingstoke** Birmingham Birmingham Airport **Birmingham City** Brighouse Cardiff

Cardiff City Carlisle Colchester Coventry

Aylesbury Basildon Bexley Brentwood Cambridge Chester Dublin Farnborough

Gloucester Ipswich Lancaster Leeds/Bradford

Croydon

Epping

Fareham

Derby/Burton

Glasgow Erskine

Edinburgh

Manchester Plymouth Rugby/Northampton Stoke on Trent Swansea Swindon Teesside Taunton Wakefield Warrington/Runcorn

Washington Glasgow Airport Newcastle upon Tyne Guildford Norwich



Nottingham City Nottingham/Derby Preston Reading Rochester South Mimms Southampton Southampton/Eastleigh

tolS & CONDITIONS: Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or double occupancy, fully inchesive of tax and service. Offer available 1998 to 28th February 1999 (inclusive) - excluding 31 December. All reservations subject to availability with a limited number of rooms availability to be read to Central Reservations prior to armid at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promot instructs. Postpouse hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or guaranteed book not used by the liable to a non-armed chatge of the first night's terms. All unconfirmed bookings will be released at 2pm on day of armid). Then part of the

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THE INDEPENDENT Thursday 14 January 1999

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FIF IN DEPENDENT



Banks mauled as Brazil spooks FTSE

EQUITIES SUFFERED one of their worst poundings as Brazil's currency crisis hit the stock market.

What amounted to a devaluation caused widespread concern around the world, and Footsie was in ragged retreat from the opening. At one time it was off 287.1 points, but in busy two-way trading the index managed to reduce its deficit to 183.5 points, closing at 5,850.1.

The index began the year at 5.566.1. Its best close last week was 6,148.8, although it hit a new trading high of 6,195.6.

Despite the slump there were indications that institutional investors, who seemed bappy to chase shares in a mad scramble last week, had not completely faded from the scene. The late rally stemmed from determined buying at the knockdown prices produced by the earlier panic.

Not only blue chips were in the firing line: the mid cap index crashed 102.7 points to 4,874.4 and the small cap 31.2 to 2,108.6. Both finished well above their lows. Government stocks rose by up to 75p.

Trading was again heavy, with share turnover topping 1.1 billion. MARKET REPORT

PAIN

BPB, following a share buyback at 186p, was the most traded stock with turnover put at 34.5 million. The shares fell 8.75p to 188p.

Banks suffered the severest mauling as the market fretted over their exposure to Latin America, and those with long memories recalled the crashing impact of past regional defaults. Standard Chartered lost 84p (after 96p) to 742p and National Westminster Bank 105p (after 128p) to 1,066p.

HSBC was off 125p to 1,628p and Lloyds TSB 43p to 821.5p. The

Alliance 39p down at 483p and Prudential down 55p at 899p.

In such an unfriendly environ-ment, the high flying telecom shares were also sounding the retreat, with Vodafone 35p down at 1,039.5p and Energis 31p at 1,380p. But high flying Colt Telecom, seen by all as particularly vulnerable to any darkening climate, restricted its fall to 19p at 1,018p.
Dixons resisted the slump, gain-

ing 44p to 958p, a peak, as its results were in line with best expectations. Whitbread, with a moderately cheerful trading statement, put on 8p to 775.5p, but Aflied Domecq continued to suffer from its sober Christmas trading message, falling a further 19p to 497p. The Allied gloom again unsettled Bass, off 18.5p at 786.5p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 28.5p at 684.5p.

Zeneca, the drugs group, was ruffled by stories that its would-be partner, Astra of Sweden, could be snatched away. Roche, the big Swise pharmaceutical group, was said to be on the verge of mounting a bid for Astra, a development

gloom encompassed other finan-cials, with insurer Royal & Sun alooe and foriors at the altar. The

shares fell 71p to 2,673p. Sears, on the sale of its credit card business, gained 25p to 310.5p. Retail entrepreneur Philip Green

ON-LINE, an obscure little computer games business, says it is not involved in any corporate talks, but even so it is comfortably leading the 1999

stock market race. The shares climbed a further 12p to 57.5p as against 16.5p on Monday. Two directors, chairman Michael Hodges (50.000) and Clem Chambers (100,000), have each "reluctantly" sold shares to improve liquidity. Two years ago the price topped 100p.

still hovers: he has bid 340p a share although be has not won the backing of the Sears board. WH Smith, said to be expanding its Internet retailing, was 20.5p higher at 537p. Encouraging trading statements belped Selfridges 6.5p better to

213.5p, Limelight 3p to 33.5p and education group Nord Anglia 14p to 142.5p. IT group Vega was lifted 30p But trading gloom again took its toll: Morgan Crucible collapsed 79p

J FMAMJ J A SOND J

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

LLOYDS

TSB

to 133.5p; engineer Cirqual, with sales down 12 per cent and wouldscarves maker Yorklyde 20.5p off at 56.5p and tea group Whittard

ware group Pegasus lowered the shares 37.50 to 262.50.

It was ironic that on such a fraught day the Guardian Royal Exchange takeover story was

TAKEOVER rumours swirled on the undercard, with T Clarke, a construction group, and Zotefoams, a chemical operation, in the firing line. Clarke rose 14p to 112.5p and Zotefoams 10.5p to 90p. Both shares are well below their best levels.

The rumoured predators were said to be foreign; Clarke, it was claimed, was in the sights of a continental group, while Zotefoams had attracted an American suitor.

given another whirl. It had little impact on the shares, lifting them just 0. Sp to 337.5p. It was suggested that AXA, the French group seen be bidders retreating, 68.5p to 134p; at the head of the bidding queue, was on the verge of launching a fundraising exercise to back a deal.

21.5p to 69.5p. Caution from soft- AXA was said to be raising £1bn, which could tie in with suggestions that it intends to focus on overseas, with the Pru taking on domestic operations. Talk has been that the bid price will be around 400p. GRE is said to have rejected a 360p shot.

Abbot, an oil services group, tumbled 24.5p to 141.5p in late trading as rumours circulated that its proposed merger with Norway's Prosafe group had been called off.

In busy trading AromaScane, the electronic "nose" group, edged for-ward 0.25p to 10.25p, its highest since a rescue rights issue was made last year. The revamped group, thought to be attracting institutional interest, reports results later this month. KS Biomedix rose 18p to 314.5p in a late response to progress on its os-

teoarthritis drug. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, in a takeover tussle with Marston Thompson & Evershed, did itself little good by reporting first-quarter sales below expectations: the shares fell 17.5p to 447.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.13 billion SEAQ TRADES: 88,030 GILTS INDEX: 115.98 +0.81

Investment: If the IT group's directors are taking profits, should investors as well?

FI board shares £15m windfall

- By PETER THAL LARSEN

THE BOARD of FI Group yesterday .: shared a windfall of more than £15m when a group of directors took advantage of the computer services company's strong share price per-formance to offload 4.7 million shares.

Hilary Cropper, the chief executive who personally pocketed close to £6.5m from the sale, defended the decision. "Some of us have a lot of our wealth tied up in that busimess," she said, adding that the directors still had a combined 6.5 per cent stake. They have also agreed oot to sell any more shares for 12

The sight of directors selling large chunks of stock did not rattle investors, who scrambled to snap them up. It is understood that it took Warburg Dillon Read, FT6 broker, just five minutes to place the shares with Institutional investors.

Nevertheless, investors might company has been one of the beststocks on the London exchange, doubling in value last year. It is also ing on an eye-popping 63 times

FI GROUP: AT A GLANCE Market value:£653m, share price 325p (-2p) Trading record 1996 1997 1998 1997 1998 Full year to — 30 Apr — Turnover (£m) 98.8 . 161.1 71.2 108.9 Pre-tax profits (£m) 6.6 10,7 4.3 7.5 1.6 Earnings per share (p) · : 2,9 · 4.7 2,5 1.0 Dividends per share (p) 0.4 Revenue breakdown Share price Half year to 31 October, % 350 -IIS Infotech 3% FI Recruitment 250 200 · 150

Not that FI is giving investors any ing in business. In the half, FI terday, showed pre-tax profits rising tricity that requires some work to be performing information technology by 75 per cent to £7.5m on turnover up 53 per cent to £109m.

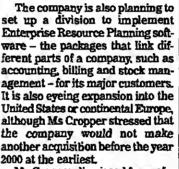
The results included a contribucomputer group FI bought at the end centage point in the half year. of 1997 and which is already bring-

done outside the UK to save costs.

Lower wage costs in India also boosted FT's margins, which rose to among the most highly rated, trad- bon from IIS Infotech, the Indian 6.5 per cent, up more than a per-

Meanwhile, Ms Cropper sounded

Hilary Cropper: 'No barriers to growth' in FT's markets upbeat on FT's growth prospects. She reasonably ask whether they too cause for concern. Results for the six signed a £20m three-year IT out-believes that over time its largest should be taking profits in F1. The months to 31 October, released yes- sourcing contract with London Elec- customers - who account for 70 per cent of revenues - will entrust more of their IT spending to FL Work on the millennium bug, which yields 15 per cent of revenues, will tail off, but it will be replaced by preparations



Ms Cropper dismissed fears of a slump in demand after the year 2000. There are no barriers to growth in this market at this time," 5he said. House broker Warburg agreed, upgrading its full-year profit forecast by almost 5 per cent to £16.1m.

Roger Phillips, an analyst at investment bank Granville, said: "Every key indicator of the company's financial performance showed an improvement. Any concerns the City has now relate to the valuation of the shares as opposed to the com-

With its long-term cootracts and solid forward order book, analysts think that there is little chance of FI disappointing the market in the short term. However, few in the City for the introduction of the euro in the are brave enough to rate the shares,

increased advertising and promo-

bon, but it is likely that falling mort-

gage rates are encouraging home

owners to plough some of the money

they save on mortgages back into

Limelight's shares have not been

spectacular performers since they

were floated at 1880 three years ago,

and the path has generally been

downward But Andrew Stanway.

who stepped up to the post of chief

executive after a management shakeup, has succeeded in taking out

costs and sold the loss-making Port-

Richard Ratner, of brokers Sey-

bome improvements.

Mr Burke, the office clerk who got to the top

THE YORKSHIREMAN who steered Bristol & West out of its building society status and into the arms of Bank of Ireland two years ago is standing down as chief executive after 34 years with the same insbtution

John Burke, 56, is one of a dying breed: a man who worked his way up from office clerk to boss of a financial institution with assets of over £13bn. Mr Burke says this career path is "sadly oot likely to happen too often in the future".

Yesterday be said he was standing down as chief executive to become vice-chairman of Bristol & West. It's a long way from Mr Burke's first job, in the Plymouth office be joined in November 1964. There was a big gap in the office and the counter - they thought I was

a big enough lad to fill it," he recalls. When he became the society's youngest-ever branch manager at Truro, Cornwall, in 1968, the society had assets of just £40m. Mr Burke moved to bead office in 1978 and got the top job in 1993, steering the society through demutualisation and subsequent sale to the Bank of Ireland four years later. He will be succeeded by Jeff Warren, finance director of Bristol & West since 1992.

IN Great Railway Journeys on BBC2 on Tuesday night, presenter Michael Portillo returned to Spain the land of his ancestors – and was the very picture of relaxation. He journeyed in great comfort, at speeds of 300kph, in modern, shiny trains, in a trip which took in Granada, Seville, Madrid and Salamanca. He told us, clearly proud of Spain, that if the TGV-type train was more than five minutes late at Madrid everyone got all their fare back. The train was, in the event, five minutes early.

In the UK, of course, we bave earnt not to expect such speed, comfort or compensation from our privatised system. Who is to blame? Ian Gilmour, the ex-Tory cabinet

ninister, had no doubts. He wrote in the Evening Standard in October 1995: "When be (Portillo) was a junior minister of transport he was the chief architect of the ridiculously

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS By John WILLCOCK

MOHAMMED AL FAYED'S former spokesman Michael Cole has joined the board of a small Loodoo-based public relations outfit, Lehmann Communications, to belp grow its presence in the luxury goods and services sector

The bouffant-haired former BBC presenter told me yesterday that he remains on good terms with the Harrods boss, but resents being referred between the secretary at the back to by the media as simply "the press officer at Harrods".

"I was a director of the company and I was deeply involved in the company's business," be insists.

Mr Cole adds with typical modesty: "Obviously I know everyone worth knowing, really."

MICHAEL FOOT, former Labour leader, today opens the first Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Shop, the progenitor of what is planned to be a 2,000-strong worldwide chain. Although widely acknowledged as

a top quality coffee, the Jamaican variety has been difficult to buy in the UK until now, says the chain's managing director, Geoffrey Holland. The shop at 18 Maddox Street in London's Mayfair features Jamaican

culture and lifestyle. LORD SIMPSON, chief executive of GEC, was cock-a-hoop yesterday that an employee of the defence company has won the Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award for the

second year running

Lord Simpson took time off from merger talks with a bost of other defence companies to praise this year's winner, Kim Dennis, 26. information technology specialist skill group manager with Marconi Communications of Coventry. He said Ms Dennis and the other finalists "make wonderful role models for many youngsters who may not otherwise realise the superb and exciting career opportunities which are

Selfridges trading update brings Limelight looks fit to some cheer to the high street

SELFRIDGES HAS not exactly over- BY NIGEL COPE burdened investors with good news since the department store retailer was demerged from Sears last summer but there were some more promising tidings from the group yesterday.

Its Christmas trading étatement showed that in the six weeks over Christmas, sales at its flagship store on London's Oxford Street were 3.2 per cent up on the same period last year. And the new Manchester store at Trafford Park, which opened in September, has reached the required level with a contribution of £13.4m so far.

At Oxford Street, the best performers have been the perfume department, where sales rose by 12 per cent, and the children's department, which saw an 8 per cent rise.

This belped offset a poor performance in clothing, where sales were flat. The winter sale has been "sat-

Associate City Editor

isfactory" and there is no problem with over-stocks. Selfridges' shares rose on relief

that the group had not become another victim of the high street blues. But the figures do not quite represent the "turnaround" being claimed in some quarters yesterday. A key factor in the sales growth

was the re-opening in the autumn of the beauty hall, which is the reason perfume sales have been so fragrant. Selfridges' redevelopment programme will finish this year with the completion of the menswear department overhaul on the ground floor. After that, the figures will be truly like-for-like and comparisons may be a little more onerous.

John Richards at BT Alex Brown described Selfridges figures as "relatively reassuring" bnt pointed

out the boost from the new beauty hall. He also notes that underlying net asset value is 214p, compared with yesterday's close of 213p, up 6.5p on the day.

That might seem to offer support but a more significant factor is the near 7 per cent now held by the property group British Land. That has buoyed the share price as speculation persists that John Ritblat's group may mount a bid or push for a sale and leaseback of the Oxford

On BT Alex.Brown's full year forecast of £18m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 20. Analysts say that on fundamentals the stock is overvalued and that bid prospects are based more on bope than expectation.

There will be far worse trading statements that yesterday's update from Selfridges but that is no reason to chase the shares.

UK and for electronic commerce. rebound into profits

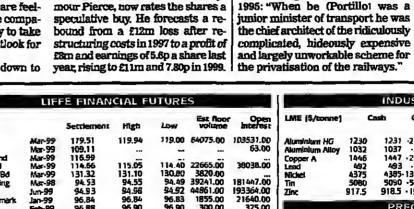
SHARES GOING up yesterday were BY CLIFFORD GERMAN few and far between but Limelight, the Manchester-based makers and retailers of fully-fitted kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and conservato-

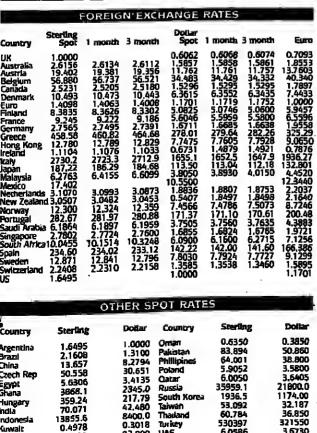
ries, managed a 3p rise to 33.5p. The company, which trades under various names - Sharps, Moben, Dolphin and Kitchens Direct - issued a trading statement saying simply that trading remained tough in the final quarter of the year, but Limelight had performed in line with expectations in 1998 and the current

year had begun reasonably well. In the January sale period - traditionally the peak season - sales were 8 per cent up on last year: quite an achievement at a time when many high-street retailers are feeling the pinch. However, the company insists it is still too early to take any firm position on the outlook for

trading after January. Some of the success

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Copper A	1446		-24.00		1474	-23	603600	400
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SPORT

Golf: As the game goes global, players increasingly want to match themselves against the world's elite

New look as tour rakes in big money

EVER SINCE just eight profession- BY ANDY FARRELL als gathered at Prestwick in October 1860, the concept of the best players in the game playing against each other to decide a worthy champion has been a familiar one in golf. But so has tradition, and though the 128th staging of the Open Championship, which returns to Carnoustie for the first time in 24 years, will remain the centrepiece of the 1999 season, change is in the air.

The European Tour, which gets under way in Johannesburg today with the South African PGA Championship, has a new look in two ways. Firstly, the official currency from season at today's exchange rate. For each Briton who might be suspicious of the change, there is a Bernhard Langer who expected nothing less.

of a new level of tournaments all with a first prize of \$1m, or £630,000 or are among those tried to make sure 880.000 euros: big money in anyone's of a place at La Costa next month. currency. Three World Championship events have been introduced to cater for the players' requests for more opportunities for the best to meet the best, a concept thoroughly endorsed by sponsors and televi-

If the idea is an old one, and was achieved on the links of Scotland until the turn of the century and on the fairways of the US Tour for most of the 1900s, recently only the four Brookline, where Faldo lost the US major championships have seen a

The development of the game outside of the States, with Europe becoming a force in the Ryder Cup and, last month, the International team defeating the Americans in the Presidents Cup, finally has brought a recognition from the Americans that the game is going global.

If the feeling is that their idea of the best meeting the best is fine as long as it is on US soil, with two of the new events in the States, then the third, the American Express World Championship, which will decide the US money list as well as the European Order of Merit, will be played at Valderrama in November.

It was Greg Norman who sparked the tours from around the world to come together in unusual co-operation when he proposed a World Tour of élite events in 1994. Where Norman missed the point is that golf does not need any more 30-man events with no half-way cut to concentrate the mind. All that really needs to happen is for other events to follow the lead of the US Players' Championship in making sure the top 50 or more on the world rankings are among a full-field entry.

One of the new events falls into Norman's trap, the NEC World Invitational bringing together Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup players at Firestone, the home of the now defunct World Series. Greg Turner, the New Zealander, will play in the event because he was picked as a wild card for the International Presidents Cup team but does not believe he should be. "I'm in the tournament as a player ranked 70th in the world when others, who are more de- who is expected to turn professionserving, are missing out," be said. al after the US Masters.

"At a time when the difference between being 30th in the world and 130th is smaller than it's ever been, we are looking at creating this élitist group where the fields are limited," Turner added.

Each event, however, has specific qualification criteria allowing players to emerge from the European or other tours to work their way up the ladder. Much the most eagerly anticipated of the new events is the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship, which will feature the world's top 64 in straight now on will be the euro, with a conversion to pounds sterling set for the bead-to-bead action, a concept that has not existed since the USPGA went to strokeplay in 1958.

The qualification for the event has added an impetus to the start of the season. Nick Faldo (57th), Per-Secondly, there is the introduction Ulrik Johansson (63rd), Robert Karlsson (67th) and Andrew Coltart (69th) Due to poor results at the start of last season, Karlsson has been told he can improve his world ranking points average by sitting at home for the next six weeks. Whether it will be enough is another question and the Swede is not taking the chance.

Faldo is showing signs of trying to make the team on merit. The Ryder Cup will be played in September at the Country Club of Open in a play-off to Curtis Strange ing events," Faldo said of the Ryder Cup. "You want to be there."

The 41-year-old six-times major winner is taking advantage of the absence of Colin Montgomerie (resting), Darren Clarke (fitness training) and Lee Westwood (honeymoon) by teeing up at Houghton today. "Step one is to get back to winning, step two is to get back to winning majors and if you are doing that you'll get in the Ryder Cup," he said.

Winning the World Cup with England and finishing fourth in the Australian Open has rekindled his enthusiasm. "I'm as keen as mustard. You hate being down where I am when you have been where I have been. But I just keep believing that after everything I've been through I'll be a better player than ever before. That's the scary thing now is experience."

With the European Order of Merit now including the US Open and USPGA as well as the three World Championship events, the chances of a player coming out of the pack, as Ronan Rafferty did in 1989, to win the btle have decreased. Equally, it will now reflect performances by Europeans in the world's biggest tournaments. Expect another Montgomerie,

Clarke, Westwood shoot out. As for Justin Rose, the 18-year-old is taking up the first of what should be many invitations in Johannesburg this week. Quite how many he receives will be up to how he performs. The safety net of the Challenge tour remains but he may find himself overtaken by Sergio Garcia,



JANUARY 14-17 Alfred Dunhill South African PGA. Houghton, Johannesburg 21-24 South African Open, Stellenbosch 28-31 Heineken Classic, The Vines, Perth.

FERRUARY

11-14 Dubai Desert Classic, Dubai Creek 17-20 Qatar Masters, Doha, Qatar 24-28 World Golf Championship Andersen Consulting March Play, La Costa, Califor-

4-7 Portuguese Algarve Open, venue to be announced 11-14 Turespaña Masters, venue toa 18-21 Moroccan Open, Royal Agadir 25-28 Madeira Island Open. Santo da Serra

EUROPEAN TOUR SCHEDULE

8-11 US MASTERS, Augusta, Georgia

4-7 Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open,

MARCH

22-25 Peugeot Spanish Open, venue tha 29-2 May Flat and Fila Italian Open. Circolo, Turin

MAY

6-9 French Open, venue tha 13-16 Benson and Hedges International, The Oxfordshire 21-24 Deutsche Bank-SAP Open TPC of Europe, St Leon Rot, Heldelburg 28-31 Volvo PGA Championship, Went-worth, Surrey

JUNE 3-6 English Open, tba

10-13 German Open, Sporting Club, Berlin 17-20 US OPEN, Pinehurst, North Car-24-27 Compaq European Grand Prix, De Vere Slaley Hall, Northumberland

1-4 Murphy's Irish Open, Druids Glen, County Wicklow

7-10 Standard Life Loch Lomond, Loch

15-18 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, Camoustle, 22-25 TNT Outch Open, Hilversun

30-2 Aug Smurfit European Open. K Club, County Klidare AUGUST

Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Barse-Maimô, Sweden 12-15 US PGA, Medinah, Chicago 19-22 BMW International Open, Nord-Elchenried, Munich, Germany 26-29 World Golf Championship NEC Invi-tational, Akron, Ohio

SEPTEMBER 2-5 Canon European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierre, Switzerland

9-12 One 2 One British Masters, venue tha 16-19 Lancôme Trophy, St Nom-la-Brêteche, Parls, France 24-26 RYDER CUP, Brookline, Boston 30-3 Oct Linde German Masters, Gut Larchen-

OCTOBER

7-10 Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews, Scotland 14-17 Osco World Match Play, Wentworth, Sur-14-17 Open Novotel Perrier, Golf du Medoc.

Bordeaux, France 21-24 Belgacom Open, Royal Zoute, Belgium 28-31 Volvo Masters, Montecastillo, Jerez, Spain

NOVEMBER 4-7 World Golf Championship Strokeplay. Valderrama, Spain

11-14 Johnnie Walker Classic, venue tha 18-21 World Cup of Golf, Mines Resort, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 18-23 European Tour qualifying school finals, San Roque and Sotogrande, Spain

THE CONTENDERS

ERNIE ELS

Has the busiest international players and paid the penalty when he was struck down by a back injury last



June. Consequently suffered a disappointing Consemiddle and end to what had middle and end to what had started out as an outstanding season. Down to fifth on the world rankings but keen to challenge Tiger Woods for the No 1 spot and add to his two US Opens. Just marned and will spend much of the summer at his new home at Wentworth.

LEE WESTWOOD

Another newly wed who is currently honeymooning in the Caribbean. De-serves the break seven times last

year and 10 times within 13 months. At No 8 on the world rankings has overtaken Colin Montgomerie as the leading British player and will want to end the Scot's six-year tenure in the European No 1 spot. But getting into contention in the majors will be his highest priority.

TIGER WOODS

Too many seconds and thirds last year and too few victories have rubbed Woods' mystique as a phenomenon but



added credence to his belief that he is now con sistently a better player. Masters and the Open - if he can beat Mark O'Meara - remain his best chances of adding to his solltary major but the new World Matchplay Cham-pionship should bring out his flair for one-on-one combat.

THE PRETENDERS

DARREN CLARKE

Has taken time to learn the winning habit but proved he has done so to brilliant effect by winning the ast November.



gone on a fitness drive in an attempt to convert more of his near misses, as at the Open at Royal Troon in '97. Feels 66-1 is far off the mark for his chances at Au-gusta after finishing eighth on his debut in the Masters last year.

DAVID DUVAL The Westwood

of the US tour, on which he has already claimed the seasonopening Mer-cedes Cham-pionship by nine strokes to record



his eighth win since October 1997. But just as he struggled to break through, has yet to prove himself in the majors. Led the Masters briefly with three holes to play last April but over-taken by O'Meara's late charge.

JESPER PARNEVIK

Under that cap with the upturned peak and in between munching vol-canic sand hides a ball striker of rare quality



tesding fairways of the US Tour over the last few seasons. Will split his schedule on both sides of the Atlantic after rejoining the European Tour, a re-quirement for him to make the Ryder Cup team. Three chances to win the Open in the last five years have only convinced him he can become the first Swede to win a major championship.

The curse of irresponsible expectation

AT THE risk of upsetting some in this dubious trade it is proposed that all sports reporters, including those who broadcast by television and radio, undertake the revolutionary experiment of discreet appraisal.

To be sure, this might startle and confuse the clientele, yet 1999 would be a better and brighter year if we could get through it without being imprudently advised that genius is upon us. If we could start by setting

promise in perspective, there might

come a day when emerging talent

is not put at risk by descriptions that

twitch and quiver with irresponsible expectation. While it is idle to suppose that any teenager who is quickly successful in sport can avoid the sort of



attention given to Michael Owen in last summer's World Cup finals and Justin Rose in the Open golf championship, it can lead to difficulties in development that some

have found insurmountable.

the BBC pundit and former Liverpool defender Mark Lawrenson stated that Owen, at 19 years old, is already a phenomenon of football. There is some truth in that, but

unfortunately it may lead the pubhic to consider Owen complete in football education when, in fact, he still has things to master. As for Rose, it was not so much

that the roof caved in on him after outscoring many of the world's best golfers at Birkdale as that he did not live up to quite ridiculous media anticipation. Comparisons between Rose and a true phenomenon of golf, Tiger Woods, were as daft as some made between Owen and Pele, who was only 17 when he appeared for Brazil against Sweden Recently, on Match of the Day, in the 1958 World Cup final.

A great deal of attention was given last week to Jermaine Pennant, the 15-year-old prodigy who is registered with Arsenal after being brought up in the game by Notts County.

There are some important side issues involved here - Notts County's agreement with Arsenal cannot conceal their disappointment - but there is risk in Arsenal's investment.

Nohody can ever be sure whether young players will live up to their potential. I do not know exactly what the figures are, but the majority of apprentices in English football fail to make it as fully fledged professionals.

Only people who look upon an interest in football as evidence of retarded development will be benefits. Some will disappear from that a 15-year-old Ferenc Puskas

oblivious to the notion that a huge future in the game is being predicted for West Ham's 17-year-old midfielder Joe Cole, who made his first-team debut as a substitute in ball management when the pressure the third round of the FA Cup against Swansea City.

Cole is just one of an emerging generation who promise much for the future of English football. Improved coaching gives them a better chance than the many who fell by the wayside after representing England at youth international

The trouble is that media attention may be detrimental to their progress. Few will be blessed with Owen's temperament and the solid family background from which he view, either because of injury or would rise above others in his genfailed personality. I was mentioning this the other

day to someone who gave up footto achieve became too great for him. "I think the worst thing about the job was telling youngsters that they weren't going to make it," he said. "Most of them took it well but the parents were a different matter. I remember mothers in my office pleading for their sons to be kept on."

In their eagerness to publicise the announcement of sporting youth, some people descend into a twilight of reason and language.

Gustav Sebes, who put together the great Hungarian side of the 1950s, once spoke about his belief

eration and become one of the great figures in football history.

The interesting thing about this was that others were considered ahead of Puskas in natural ability. "But none of them had his nerve," Sebes said. "On the worst day in his life he would never drop below a high standard. At that age Puskas's consistency was remarkable and, of course, he lived up to all the hopes that were held out for him."

We shall have to wait and see whether something similar will be said about those who are presently causing a great deal of excitement in English football. It would help if people who report their efforts do so with more circumspection than is at present evident.

Botha 2000

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Exercise 19 August 19 Augu

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Baynes

makes

move to

Salford

RUGBY LEAGUE

THE WIGAN prop Neil Baynes

has boosted his hopes of regu-

lar first-team action by joining

Super League rivals Salford.

Baynes has had few senior op-

portunities at Central Park,

making just 12 substitute ap-

made a big impact for Wigan at Salford four months ago, scor-

ing his first try for the club with his first touch of the ball after

Baynes, who has agreed a

two-year deal with Salford, was one of five props chasing a

first-team place at Wigan, with

competition from Neil Cowie,

Terry O'Connor, Tony Mestrov

and the new signing Brett Gold-

The former Great Britain

captain Garry Schofield, who made three Challenge Cup final

appearances at the height of his

career, could find himself lead-

ing Doncaster on the Wemhley

spink.

But the 21-year-old forward

pearances in four years.

stepping off the bench.

Henman talks up Open prospects

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN is confident of his chances in next week's Australian Open, despite making a losing start to his preparations.

Henman was heaten 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Mark Philippoussis in his first match in Melbourne's Kooyong Classic, following a defeat in the Qatar Open final on Sunday to the German qualifier, Rainer Schuttler. But he believes he is playing consistently enough to challenge for the year's opening Grand Slam.

"I think my game since Wimhledon has been most consistent. I've beaten most people," the 24-year-old said, "but now that Pete Sampras has pulled out of the Open - be's one guy I haven't beaten - if I can continue playing the way I am then I will be difficult to beat."

Henman's best achievement in a Grand Slam to date was losing to Sampras in last year's Wimbledon semi-final. He has changed his routine this year after playing in the last two finals in Sydney.

"I would have arrived on Tuesday and played that day in Sydney and then gone and played five matches as I have done in the last two years, and that takes a lot out of you," Henman said.

"To go into the Australian Open I would like to be a little fresher, so that was my reasoning in playing here before the Australian Open. I think playing in the last two Sydney finals is perhaps a little hit too much with regards to preparation for the Australian Open."

Henman could be top-seeded for the first time in an ATP Tour event in Britain oext month. The British No 1 will take prime hilling at the Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park, London, from 22 to 28 February, if he maintains or improves his present world ranking of seven.

Henman is the highestranked player to have confirmed his entry for the

THE PRETENDE

Battersea tournament. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Russian holder who is ranked 11 in the world, and Karol Kucera, the Slovakian ranked eight, both announced yesterday they too would be competing in the London event. It means that five of the



Goran Ivanisevic finds a novel way to express his frustration in his 7-6, 7-6 defeat against Thomas Enqvist at the Kooyong Classic in Melbourne yesterday

older sister, Venus.

world's leading 11 players will be on view at Battersea since Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, who is ranked nine, and the former Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek, the Dutchman ranked 10, are also among the entries.

Henman's possible top seeding at Battersea is an indication of the remarkable progress he has made in the past 12 months. At the fournament last year, he was ranked 21 in the world and not among the eight seeds,

although he did beat Krajicek, then seeded fifth, in the first round before falling to Kafelnikov in three sets in the third.

Also in Australia is Steffi Graf, the former world No 1, who continued her comeback yesterday by beating the American Serena Williams to reach the quarter-finals of the Adidas

International in Sydney. Graf played only a handful of tournaments in 1998 because of a series of injuries, primarily wrist, ankle and knee problems, that prevented her from playing for most of 1997 as well. She missed last year's Australian Open through injury and has not won a Grand Slamtitle since the 1996 US Open. v:

However, she came back strongly late last year, and began this year ranked No 9 after winning two of the last three tournaments she entered and 12 of her previous 13 matches, including wins over the leading three players in the world. Graf continued that winning

Coetzer to earn a meeting with form against Williams yesterday, weathering a second-set Graf is understandably eager wobble and coming back from a hreak down in the final set, to to improve on her recent the second. I started to make an

beat the teenager 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 progress. "It's been a while and reach the last eight of the since I started a year without Australian Open warm-up, any injuries. It's a great feeling," where she will face Serena's the 29-year-old German said. "The wrist and knee, it's all

Venus Williams, ranked No 5, fine. It's a completely different could prove Graf's toughest way to approach the game. I'm opponent in the lead-up to next able to work on my condition. week's Grand Slam tourna-That hasn't been the case for a ment. She overpowered the long time." South African player Amanda

Of yesterday's win over the

younger Williams sister, Graf

said: "I played a very good first

set, but I had a total letdown in

extreme amount of mistakes. I

felt very flat suddenly. But to

come back was good. I'm happy

I was able to raise my game at

The Australian Open cham

pion, Petr Korda, began legal

proceedings yesterday chal-

lenging the right of the ITF to

appeal against his lenient treat-

ment for a positive drugs test.

that point."

trail later this month. The 33year-old former Hull, Leeds and Huddersfield stand-off has been targeted as the first of a number of major signings by the First Division club following a successful takeover. Doncaster have been res-

cued hy Westferry Ltd, the company that also recently took over the town's football team, and the directors yesterday submitted their husiness plan for approval by the Rugby Football League hoard

Schofield, who was sacked as player-coach of Huddersfield last summer, is currently playing rugby union with Aberavon but is expected to lend his vast experience to reversing the ailing fortunes of Doncaster.

The Doocaster coach, Colin Maskill, is hoping to sign Schofield in time for the Challenge Cup tie against the Oldham amateur club, St Annes, oo 31 January.

First Division Hull KR have completed their overseas quota with the signing of utility forward David Luckwell, who made 57 first-grade appearances with the Canterbury Bulldogs.

Botha wary of Tyson

FRANCOIS BOTHA predicted syesterday that the world will see the old Mike Tyson again this weekend, when the pair meet in Las Vegas.

By "old", Botha was referring to the brutally intimidating Tyson who took boxing by storm when he became world champion at the age of 20.

However, while Tyson is an overwhelming favourite to beat the South African in his first fight since he was disqualified for hiting Evander Holyfield in June 1997, Botha believes he can upset the odds.

Botha is 7-1 with the Las Vegas bookmakers to upset Tyson's comeback, but he is used to flying in the face of reason. In a freak accident at 16 he fell into a hole while gathering corn and mangled his right arm. Nerve damage was so severe that he still does not enjoy full feeling in the limb. His little finger does not fully close and for years he boxed mainly with his left arm He missed the Olympics BY KIERAN DALEY

when South Africa was barred because of apartheid and has warred with the boxing authorities throughout his career. When he became International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion in 1995 he was stripped of his title a few weeks later after testing positive for steroids which a doctor had prescribed for an injury.

"All of a sudden he has lost all his money," Botha said of Tyson. "He wants something again. That might make him more angry than he was in the past. It might make him come out harder to get it back again. "I think Mike Tyson is the

best heavyweight out there," said the South African. "I want to fight the best. If you beat the best, you are the hest."

get the intimidating vision of Tyson, coming at him from the first bell, out of his mind.

"Tyson's rushing up trying to catch me," Botha said. "Tve got to do my thing. I have to make the right moves. This guy's coming to take my head off in the first three rounds. He'll try to get it in the first. That round will be brutal, but I know I am going to get through it. If I do

Henry Wharton insisted yesterday that he will have no regrets about retiring even though he had a triple title fight just three weeks away. He was to have challenged Crawford Ashley for the European, Commonwealth and British light-heavyweight titles on 6 February.

the fight is mine."

Wharton's retirement has surprised both Frank Maloney, his promoter, and his trainer Gary Atkin. Atkin said: "The strange thing is he's never been in better shape."

But the 31-year-old from York He admitted that he can not is convinced that he has chosen the right moment to retire. "I'm not prepared and I was never

Ashley fight," he said yesterday.
"I don't feel I have the things that I once had in my career and I don't want to fight again. I will have no regrets. How many boxers do you know who have retired after a win? Everybody carries on too long."

Wharton's last fight was a oon-title light-heavyweight bout with the Ukrainian Konstantin Okhrey in York in September. Wharton accepts that after that contest, which ended in a bruising sixth-round victory, he should have immediately retired. "The doubts had been there for almost 12 months, but after the Okhrey fight as soon as I left the ring I knew it."

During Wharton's 31-fight career he held the British, Commonwealth and European super-middleweight titles, hut lost his three career fights, all on points, in challenges for the world super-middleweight title. He was beaten by Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank in 1994, and going to he prepared for the Robin Reid three years later.

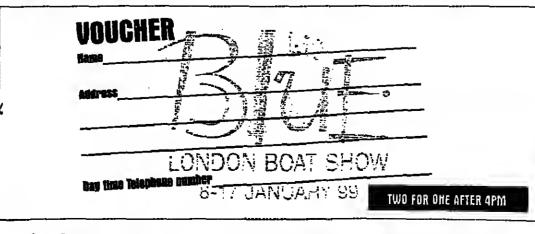
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Jordan ready to | Engine swap has enjoy family life Pavey sweating

THE FAT lady sang yesterday, and the sport of basketball will never be the same again as Michael Jordan confirmed his

"I played it to the best I could play it," Jordan told a packed news conference at the United Center, the Chicago Bulls' home court. "I tried to be the best basketball player I could be. I've had a great time. I'm just going to enjoy life and do things I've never done before."

He appeared with a bandage on his right index finger and said he said he severed a tendon while trying to cut a he added: "I'm very secure in cigar and would need surgery. Word of Jordan's retirement broke late on Monday night, but he had refused to comment until yesterday. After leading the Bulls to their sixth championship in June, Jordan had said he would make an announcement on his future only

BASKETBALL

once the National Basketball Association lock-out ended. "I thought about saying just

two words, 'I'm gone', but I thought I owed my fans a lot more than that," he said, with his wife, Juanita, at his side. "My life will take a change." He added he looked forward to being a parent and would "live vicariously through my kids," whether or not they played basketball. Jordan, asked if he would definitely never return, said: "I never say never." But my decision."

Manchester Giants have resigned Kevin St Kitts in time to play in the Budweiser League top-of-the-table clash against Sheffield Sharks oo Saturday. He replaces Danny Craven, who will miss the rest of the

THE MORE difficult the Dakar

Rally becomes the more Simon Pavey enjoys it. Just two kilometres into the 340-mile 11th stage to Nema, the engine of his British-made CCM motorbike gave a death rattle and seized

"I eventually got a lift back to the bivouac with some American missionaries, found the spare engine after a struggle, then hired a pick-up to take me back to the bike," said Pavey, who proved his worth in last year's rally by finishing the leading non-factory supported rider

Working in baking heat in six inches of soft sand, it took him six hours to swap engines with the help of a Tuareg boy named Jobe. "The exhaust was held on by a spare throttle cable," Pavey said, "but we got it going. My worry then was would the fuel truck still be there?" By a fluke, it was. After that.

"it was just 186 miles of empty

BY MAC MCDIARMID

in Nema, Mauritania desert, at night, with the bike

falling to bits underneath me." Pavey arrived at Nema at 2:30am exhausted but curiously fulfilled. Ahead lay the notoriously punishing 304-mile 12th stage to the beautiful Saharan oasis of Tichit. It would almost certainly be hell and, just as certainly, Pavey, despite being well behind the leaders, was expecting to love every minute.

The Frenchman Richard Sainct (BMW) is the overall leader with a total time of 45hr 4min 17sec. The highest placed Briton is the KTM-riding John Deacon, who is two and a half hours behind Sainct in eighth position. The rally ends on Sunday in Saint-Louis.

Results, Digest, page 27

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MICHERBY

Savill wants the BHB to run the Tote

A FUNNY thing happened at yesterday's Racing Forum, in that, by the standards of recent years, nothing happened. This must have been a relief to some of the sport's PR professionals, who have spent the days and weeks after previous forums trying to deal with the fallout from resignations, recriminations and good old-fashioned infighting. But there was little good news for them to spin either, since even Peter Savill, the BHB chairman, was able to offer no firm evidence that his Financial Plan for Racing is any closer to realisation. Yesterday's meeting of the

industry's factions marked the Plan's first birthday, and while Savill still claims it to be the driving force of BHB policy, his speech to the Forum implied he as it is with the Financial Plan, thinks he may have come up with an even better idea. The Tote, he said, should not be privatised, a prospect which has seemed more likely in recent months, Instead, it should be handed over to racing, in the of whom do not pay tax. It shape of the BHB, irrespective must be odds-against. of any financial considerations. Letters to this effect, he said, had been posted to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

By GREG WOOD

fore it's contribution to racing, and when the BHB has made such a strong case for an additional annual investment of £105m, it would be insensitive of Government to contemplate annexing the Tote and selling it to commercial interests." Racing. he said, "has a very obvious proprietary right to the Tote."

It is a bold and interesting argument. The obvious problem.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Grate British (Wincanton 4.15) **NB: Saras Delight** (Wincanton 2.10)

is whether the Government will forgo millions of pounds which could be spent on schools and hospitals, in order to help some of Britain's wealthiest individuals, many

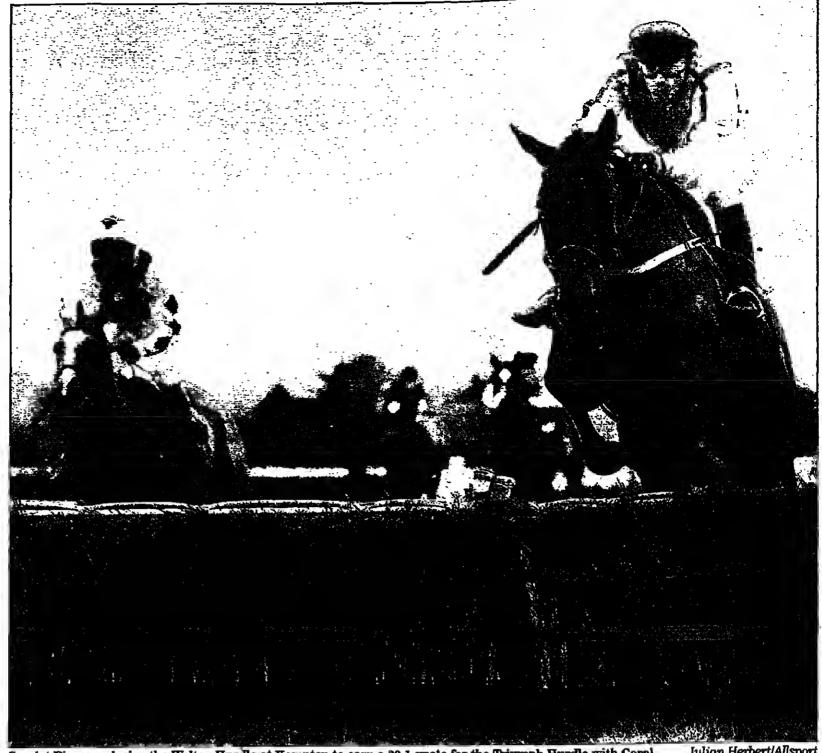
Whatever the ultimate destiny of the Tote - and privatisation could only be bad for racing - Savill has other ideas too for racing's finances. He called yes-Savill's argument was that "at terday for an end to the Levy sysa time when the Tote is making tem of funding from betting truly desperate man.

turnover in favour of a "Signal System", based on the sale of television coverage. The Levy, he said "is a system which, quite unlike any commercial transaction, dustry, to dictate the price to the seller, the racing industry." The Financial Plan, mean-

while, has not been forgotten. Savili's calculation 12 months ago was that racing needed an additional £105m each year, £25m of which would come from "self-help" measures, with the remaining £80m from an increased share of betting turnover. As regards the latter, of course, the begging bowls are still upturned but empty, although Savill said yesterday that racing had generated £10.5m of its £25m target. And that is without the scheme for sponsorship of jockeys' breeches which Savill, perversely and disgracefully, seems keen to

Serious progress on any of Savill's plans remains a distant prospect. He recently met William Hague to discuss racing's needs, which some might say is an example of the BHB chairman networking on the sport's behalf in the corridors of power, Then again, it could also be seen as the action of a

scupper



Scarlet Pimpernel wins the Walton Hurdle at Kempton to earn a 20-1 quote for the Triumph Hurdle with Coral

Julian Herbert/Allsport

FIRST SHOW

Police make 15th arrest in race-fixing inquiry

THE POLICE yesterday made BY IAN DAVIES their 15th arrest in the onsoing inquiry into race-fixing and doping. A man in his mid-14 arrested so far, nine are on bail to return to Charing Cross They include the jump jockey

from the British Horseracing Board to the Crown Prosecu-30s from Chesterfield was tion Service that the investitaken into custody. Of the other gation be brought to a speedy conclusion. Tristram Ricketts, the BHB's chief executive, said police station on 10 March. yesterday. The Jockey Club is the regulator of British racing, mer jump trainer Charlie covers evidence of criminal ac- ing as a sport with integrity. Brooks, arrested last week. tivity, it has a duty to present

lain with the police not the the Board shares the view it is Jockey Club.

"The BHB is aware the length of the investigation has been a concern, and last week's arrests have fuelled anxiety about the impact on the image of racing. In the Board's view, such investigations should be independent and thorough, en-Graham Bradley the Flatjock- but its powers are limited. suring everything possible is ey Ray Cochrane and the for- Whenever the Jockey Club un- done to safeguard British rac-

in the interests of racing the in- issued a tip for his Knife Edge vestigation be brought to a conclusion as speedily as possible."

ers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival last March, has had his chasing dehut put on hold. Jenny Pitman, his trainer, has not declared Princeful for his original target, today's Towton Novice Chase at Wetherby: Princeful, entered for the Gold

The latest arrest coincides such evidence to the police. ing such cases are complex in a novice chase at Ascot on with a somewhat bizarre plea. Since then, responsibility has and can be time-consuming. Saturday.

in the Triumph Hurdle. The Irish trainer hopes the four-

Princeful, winner of the Stay-

I've had since. He ran a good race when winning the Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown over Christmas and I intend to run him at Punchestown later this "However, while recognisin a novice chase at Ascot on grant and can be time-consuming.

"However, while recognisin a novice chase at Ascot on the satisfaction of Royal 12-1 Replaced 2-1 Formula Caste 2-1 Fo

Adam-trained gelding is now 4-1 with Ladbrokes, having been 9-1 on Tuesday:

been virtually ruled out of Sat-

urday's Victor Chandler Hand-

icap Chase at Ascot because of

testing ground. Noel Meade's

Hill Society remains doubtful,

but a gamble on Monnaie Forte Handicap Hurdle. has gathered pace. The James ■ Wetherby today is subject to a 7.30am inspection after yes-

The top-weight. Henrietta Jamie Spencer, the teenag-

Knight's Edredon Bleu, has er who won last year's Irish

terday's failed to determine whether the frost would come out of the ground in time. Musselburgh also inspect today at 3.30pm, but tomorrow's card should get the go-ahead.

1,000 Guineas on Tarascon,

rode his first hurdles winner at

Kempton yesterday on Magic

Combination in the Royal Mail

Conditional Jockeys Novice

WINC	ANT	ON	3.45	•
Horse	Ħ	Ĺ	5	
Mas Petroylell	72	41	7-2	4
Mr Jervis	7-2	4-1	7-2	
The Cockerton	41	4-1	41	9
Native Player	11-2	9-2	5-1	9
Millestord	84	7-1	6-1	7
Simple Additionals	7-1	84	B-1	B
Bozo	14-1	16-1	18-1	16-
Domnicks West	16-1	16-1	16-1	16
Melling	25-1	16-1	25-1	16
Nice Approach	#3-1	25-1	33-1	25
Pleasureland	25-1	\$3-1	33-1	- 25
Pallors	33-1	25-1	40-1	33
Red Flier.,	66-1	40-1	66-1	50
Julius Justice	100-1	50-1	100-1	86-
Goodsweep & Op.	erter fre	politic, pi	aces 1, 2,	3

H William Hill, L. Lactockes, S Startley, T Tale

WINCANTON

HYPERION 1.40 Boro Sovereign 3.10 Mulligan 3.45 Melling 2.10 Saras Oelight 2.40 Mysterious Ecology 4.15 Grate British

GOING: Soft (Good to Soil in places) 器 Right-hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yds. 图 Course is NE of lown on B3081. Templecombe station (service from London, Water-loot 4m. ADMISSTOR: Members E14 (Jurus Members, 17 to 22 years, 28); Tattersalls 20; Course (and cars to course) 25. (Under-16s free into all enclosures). CAR PARK:

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING TRAINERS M Pipe 37-15: (245%), P Nicholis 35-132 (265%), R Ainer 17-125
1135%, P Hobbs 13-109 (119%), R Hodges 13-122 (10.7%), Mrs J Pitman 12-85 (185%), I LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 23-104 (221%), A P McCoy 22-113 (185%), T J Murphy 15-54 (222%), J Osborna 12-57 (211%), A Thornton 12-60 (20%) I FAVOURITES: 193-425 (374%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Captain Monte (240), New Yorker (240), Simple Arithmetic

SPETTISBURY 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,514

- 14 declared -BETTING: 11-19 Boro Sovereign, 7-2 Ritming Water, 5-1 Handly, 7-1 Otago Heights, 12-1 Jackson's Hole, 20-1 others 1998 Neat Feat 7 ti 5 P Holley 6-1 (D Elemonth) 17 nati

FORM GUIDE

Goro Sovereign: Irish bumper writter before successful British debut in similar race at Huntingdon. Powerful sort who looks set to make his mark over timber Brownings Boy. Hint of promise on Huntingdon debut but talled off behind Yorkshire Education over this C/D last month and probably best watched here Cacchin! Little evident ability in two bumpers, Hundles debut Hardle; Good Thyne getting, 25-1 but shaped nicely when 4th of 19 to Monsignor on his debut in a strong Sandown bumper in Nov. Sure to have been well schooled Herveyoutheard: Thethingaboutitis getting out of an unraced mare. Rececourse debut decision's Hole: Confirmed bumper promise when detaint 5th of 13 to Yokia Moppe on Taution hundles debut (2m1f g/s), weaking from 3 out. Will need major improvement Olabout: No evident son of ability in three weakly-contested honces hundles.

Tauriton hurdes debut (2mit grs), weakening morn a out, will need major improvement.
Otalbud: No evident sign of ability in three weakly-contested hornces hurdles
Otalgo Heighta: Gold And wory gelding, placed in Untoxiter bumper two seasons ago,
Market the best guide on hurdles debut.
Running Water: Commanche Run gelding who followed Huntingdon NH Flat will with a
good 15th of 25 in the Champion Bumper at Chetterham. Built for jumping and from a
yard in excellent fertile at present. One to note in the betting

yard in excellent retrie at present. Une to note in the betting Little Budt. Han of aboty in three bumpers. Hurdles debut Proper Primitive: Looks only plating class. 4th in a weak nonce at Worcester before 22 lengths 7th of 15 to Double Tempo at Windsor (2m4f nov. good). Plenty to find Richmond Lady: Little evident sign of abbity in bumpers and 14-1 chance when unseating her inder at the 1st on hurdles debut here last month. Scoprima: Showed a lifte ability on her Taunton debut but falled to progress when 28 lengths 7th of 10 to Skander A Azam at Doncaster (2m nov. good)

lengths 7th of 10 to Skander A Azam at Doncaster (2m nov, good) Croker: Form pick on his win over subsequent winner Legend Of Love at Utton soft) and 18 lengths 3rd to extra-amert Behrajan and Miss Fara at Warwick (2m, soft). Consistent but no world beater and probably vulnerable to amert newcomer Doubtful VEROICT: Some very interesting jumping newcomers here in Hardly, dual bumper win-VEHOLO IT Some very investourly purphy investourless and read and Running Water, nor BORO SOVEREIGN, from the free-coring Nicky Henderson yard, and Running Water, who put up an excellent sown in the highly-competitive Chellenham Bumper last March, He comos from a yard whose novices have been going well. The Henderson factor just

2.10 LILLO LUMB CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (D) 26,000 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value \$4,182

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Class Of Ninetytwo; Winner from 11b higher at Warwick 28 months ago, Lightly raced since and looked in need of race when, 3-too-lay, weakened 150, taked off 50 of 7 to Noky Miner at Ludiow (5m hoap, good) lest month Difficult to assess, but acts on soft Malwood Castles Generally consistent after Exister eleasonal debut win lest term. Goes well in much and cannot be decounted after latest win from its merk at Fortwell last Jen Flippance: Out of look in 10 starts since novice days in '97. Pair 2nd to Folly Road in first-time biritories at Warwick in Nov. but fell when handly placed at Follestone latest. Capable of bold show off this mark, but erratic jumping always a worry.

Klanleigton: Well bedead when big Jurassic Cassic at Purription (5m1, sort) last month but pushed up in Rightsaidtreo's race at Newbury since and high enough in weights now Eistiken: 'Yet to build on promising chasing debut 2nd to Executive King at Kempton (5m). Injured need, start and outclassed when distant 3nd to Majadou at Chefrenham (5m5) lef-est. Acts an act and open to improvement debut promise when big 5t Mellon Drive 2 lengths at Heredord (5m1) mellon processive and on a handy mark Koo's Promise: Regularly placed in poor company since last win 23 months ago, over 2m51 here. Little obvious chance from 10b out of handlesp

VEROICT: The lary is attle out of Cass Of Minestyters, who promised to become a use-

VEROICT: The jury is still out on Class Of Ninetytwo, who promised to become a useful performer three seasons e.g. He is sure to come on for Ludlow but it remains to be seen whether the old spark is there. A better but could be SARAS DELIGHT, who put up a game display to best SI Mellion Drive at Hereford (pair clear) and has probably got in lightly, With his stable in form, he is preferred to the novice Elehken, who looks the

2.40 BLACKMORE VALE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,050

| Company | Proceedings | Proceedings | Procedure | Pr

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Get Tough: Flat plater, No promise when 10th of 12 to Disallowed on sole hurdle start, Cheltenham (2mil nov. good) 2 years ago
Treasure Doma: Betlewstown maiden where in July, Back to form when by 2 lengths by Limit The Damage at Plumpton (2mil nov. gls), finding Ritle from the last. Univery by Limit have away with smart 7th amateur aboard
Normanby Road: Winner twice over hurdles in New Zeeland. Yet to fulfil promise of 5th to Burund at Leicester last month, but could be on a fair mark and cannot be ruled out to Rusic Huntingdon seller winner for Tim Easterby last month but has not reproduced that form in 3 outings for new yerd
Celtic Cernot: Poor point-to-pointer. Hard to fancy on seasonal debut.
Calptain Monta: Binkered first time after felling to finish last time starts over tences and hurdles. Probably best watched.
See Prosperity: Placed once in 11 starts and 50-1 chance when 12th of 14 to Killing Time in a Taunton 2m 11 saller latest. Little appeal.

Anotherone To Note: Plating class on the Flat and yet to make the plazings in 10 out-ings over jumps. Tailed off in novice chase latest Soldier Cove: Runner-up in Hersford seller 13 months ago, but well beazer, it similar event

Michael O'Brien yesterday

year-old, 20-1 with William Hill,

can emulate Shawiya, who won

the Triumoh for him in 1993. He

said: "Knife Edge is the best

on same course last month and down the field in Rat select 5 days ago. Hard to failtry New Yorkert Fair 4th in Southwell im Plat damer 12 days ago but well besten both hurne On Mamme: Pulled up lame in Ludiow bumper is months ago, only public out-Come On Mammer. Pulled up lame in Ludiow bumper 15 months ago, only public outlings. Market probably best guide on hurdies debut.

Golden Lilly: Landed a Uttowers 2met selber in Nov for Karl Burke but has run poorly in two subsequent outings for new connections, finishing 29 lengths 6th of 7 to Indination at Folkestone (2m 11 https: heavy) on latest start. Chance at best, but others preferred Nilety Pain: Improved form when since in Starting 2m sell heap, heavy) latest, finishing 25 lengths 4th of 15 to Barton Scamp. Chance off low mark. See Fig: Pusting-class 5th 10 maiden on Flat Difficult to largey an hurdier debut Mysterlous Ecology: Useful middle-distance maiden on Flat for Barry Hist, with second in humouth tim3f claimer in September. One to note on first run for Pipe yard. River Prontier: Landed a weak Doncaster 2m seler last month from Reggie Buck but web beaten behind The Robe at Lingfield sist week and more to do now. Red Risic Plating class on Flat and pulled up both hurdies starts.

Top Marte: Little sign of ability in two ones this better starts for the Marter Biss in effective.

VERDICT: With title decent form to go one, this looks open to the Martin Pipe hurdles newcomer MYSTERIOUS ECOLOGY, who has the ment of reasonable Flat form, acts on an easy surface and is sure to have been well schooled. Pick of the remainder could be tressure Dome, who gave the impression he would benefit from the outing at Pumptor, and Normarity Road, also artified to progress.

3.10 JOHN BULL CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £10,163

- 5 declared BETTING: 11-10 Terramindo, 3-1 Madigan, 7-2 Wayward King, 6-1 The Land Agent, 33 Indian Ron 1999: Catison Bay 9 11 6 J A McCarrity 7-2 (O Sharwood) 5 nm

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Multigant Former top novice still to sparkle but generally highly thed (latest start in King George at Kempton). Reverted to hurdles and won at Newbury last February over today's bru. Hard to best in the grade

Temparindo: Scooled home in amateurs' race at Chetenham and Just lasted home in de-

Temerindo: Scooted home in amateurs' race at Chetrenham and just lested home in de-cent hardioup on serve course from Macgeorge after setting a strong pace. Never tra-eding well with big weight in Apost race won by Torduff Express last time. Today's shorter the with his tording factics etterds him every chance.
Wayward King: Dual winner over course and distance, the latest from Stormy Passage and The Land Agent (aams terms today). Likes soft ground (beaten by Philips Woody on good at Doncaster) and progressive.
The Land Agent Ascot and Sandown winner last April but below per this term. Hes til lengths to find with Wayward King on same terms on latest course and distance running indian Run: Beaten in a select three outings ago and a Pumpton winner from Regemutif in heavy ground last time. Outsiassed.

VEROICT: Temestindo can be secused the Ascot defect under a big weight and his hundle while while seried over this type of trip prior to the chase staying wins at Chelterham. Wayward King is on the up and deserves a this apairst this sort of class, but the race still books within the range of MULLIGAN, who prefers a trip short of titree miles and way very highly tried at Kempton on Beiding Day.

3 45 CORSCOMBE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E)

3	.45	£5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,778	(ODDO E
	£36-3U	SHIPLE APTHMETIC (47) (Pacing Cub KCB) K Balley Ti 120	G Bradley
	Z-P324	NATIVE PLAYER (12) (Nicholas Cooper) R Rone 7 12 0	R Durmood
	5-31F2	MULLERSPORD (26) (U) (Mrs Derex Fletcher) H Gastelee 6 11 2	C Liceopy
	0.3005	PLEASURELAND (17) (Mrs C R Haytor) C Popners 6 10 12	C McPhall (5
	OP-33P	8020 (17) (8 J M Ryal) 8 Ryal 6 10 10	J Tizzan
		MESS PERMYTHILL (8) (A Sadio A Sadio 6 to to	
		MR JERVIS (30) (Felix Roserstie's Widow & Son) J Gifford 10 O 6	
		THE COCKERTOO (42) (BF) (G L Ported R Alber 8 10 S	
		MELLING (T3) (Max R Dobson) R Hodges 8 105	
		NECE APPROACH (52) (Bob Frooms) R Hodges 5 10 0	
		DURROCKS VIEW (16) (F.G. Tucker) F.Tucker 10 10 0	
	SATES.	RED RIVER (50) (Mrs Jerry Welbourne) C Drawe 8 100.	
	20,000	JAKES JUSTICE (8) (D and M Evens) Mrs L Pichards 8 100	JA McCarthy S
		RELKOM (333) (H.) Mernerel H. Marriers 2 70	
	130.20	- 16 declared -	Artings by
		- In Opposition	

yer e.g., water states, manors at 20.
BETTING: 7-2 Not Jervis, The Cockerton, 0-1 Miles Pennythili, 9-2 Notice Player, 13-2 Simple Anthonous, 7-1 Millemeters, 16-1 Boson, 20-1 Meeting, Durandoles View, 25-1 others
1999: Capernaray 9 ti 2 A P McClay 7-2 for [J King) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Simple Arithmetic: Formerly useful burner and hurdles winner and creditable 3rd to Brother Of his at Hurtungdon on reoperance. Unseated rider at Haydock last time.

Native Player: Dual winner in Ireland and a game scorer with a big weight in hicap hurdle at Ascot last season. Pushed along throughout whan 4th to Nipper Reed at Nowbury last time and obvious chance in this grade if he gets the longer time. Extreme trip (2m2) may have been too far last time when 2nd to Knight's Crest at Warwick Pleasurelands Staying hurdler and a dual winner on faster ground than this, Has changed stables and faced stiff task on chasing debut when last-of-5 finishers behind Potentiate. Booxx Placed in weak races over fences and tailed off when a no-hoper against Potentiate at Chepstow last time.

Sames and special similar access over fences and tailed off when a no-hoper against Potentate at Chepstow last time.

Miss Permyhilit: Irish hundles winner and a witner on chasing debut at Hereford (beat Helio Me Men). Took heavy fall at the 3rd at Lingfield next time. Capable of improvement Mr Jervis: Pulled up on reappearance at Huntingdon but jumped well at Folkestone next time when 2nd to Cool Spot over the minimum. Fine chances over this longer trip. The Cockertoo: Usually jumps well but a taller when in touch here last time in the race won by Knnshalla. Previously 2nd to Denymore Mist here and shouldn't be troubled by today's shorter trip. Leading chance with 'tony McCoy booked'.

Metling: Wirner of a weak point-to-point and modest form until unseating when in touch at the 1th in Holdmotose's race at Exeter. Chris Maude takes over from usual claimer. Nice Approach: Hard to fanoy on form and was well actrift when unseating here in the race won by Denymore Mist from The Cockertoo.

Dumnicks View: Without a win from 25 starts and poor 3rd to Rolicall at Taunton latest Red River: Pulled up in both hurdle starts isst term and tailed off at Chepstow on responsance (lost ground at start by veering right). Jakes Justice: Pulled up all starts this season. Had some hurdles form with Josh Gifford and now tried in birders.

Redison: Moderate form over fences and first start for almost a year.

VERDICT: Richard Rowe returned to form with a double an Monday and Native Play-er has a chance in this grade after taking on Napper Reed at Newbury. Mr Jarvis is an-other with a chance over a longer trip and Tony McCoy's booking for The Cockertoo looks sgrificant. But this looks weak enough to select the normally claimer notion MELLING.

4.15 JAMBOREE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m Penaity Value £2,374 1 RSSO MISS ONDEE (FR) (39) (CD) (C M. 8 J & R F Estierten) M Pae 5 ti 11. ... G Supple 2 (2832 MLKA INTERNATIONAL (283) (D) (Paul Townster) Mrs P Townsley 7 n 8 ... L Sutherna 3 55-245 ADVANCE EAST (30) (D) (A J Hudsings) C Paptiern 7 n 0 ... O MisPheir 3 55-245 ADVANCE EAST (30) (D) (A J Hudsings) C Paptiern 7 n 0 ... O MisPheir 4 (3745 BRUSH WITH TIME (35) (CD) (William Peto) Mrs S Williams 7 n 0 3 ... J Tizzard 5 5th50 GLOWING PATH (15) (D) P Steel P Hodges 8 n 0 n ... T Destoomb 6 4314 JANAELYONIC (PR) (19) (Mrs Debornh Patter J Malins 5 n 0 9 ... R Whiger 7 50.332 (MaseLoonic (PR) (19) (Mrs Debornh Patter J Malins 5 n 0 9 ... J Goldstein 7 50.344 DOCTOR BRANCOUS (13) (Chris Steward) J R Poulton 6 n 2 ... J Goldstein 9 6002 PGGHTING TIMES (PS) (Nch Strutts) Mrs K Marts 7 n 2 ... J Misage 10 6002 PGGHTING TIMES (PS) (Nch Strutts) Mrs K Marts 7 n 2 ... J Misage 11 2P405 EL GRANDO (27) (M 0 Brunkot K Curwingham-Brown 9 n 0 2 ... L Curmins BETTING: 9-2 Krabloonik, 5-1 Brush With Time, 6-1 Gloveing Path, 7-1 Nilss Ordes, Grate British, 15-2 Alian International, 6-1 Janghynyre, 10-1 Advance East, 12-1 Et Grando, 14-1 others 1998: Welton Arsenel 6 to 7 G Supple 8-1 (K Bishop) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE

Mise Onder: Summer jumping mare who returned from a rest to finish last-of-7 to Bow-ciffe Court at Leicester fine weeks ago. Has won in softeh ground and must have claims Alfus International: Without a run since April but only 15 higher on his 5th to Gutteridge in a stronger race at Cheltenham in Jerusary. Previously beat Chango in 4-runner adjacent Heydock and chances today if fit enough Advance Easts Creditable 2nd to Neat Feat here in October but modest form since and tried chasing last time. Hard to fancy shush mare who made all an the course to beat Red Guard and Krabloonk in November (good ground). Bib higher mark today but still in with time chance either facing stemer test from our of the handloap at Tauriton (ast of 8 to Barrapour). Glowing Path: Hee won selers and beat Peveni Pendingon at Easter in November. 8b tower mark today and latest defeat at Stratford was with big weight in testing ground Jenglymyre. Lightly raced and a seller winner from Achi Fambler and Mas Onder (21b worse) at Stratford on fast ground in July when test-of-4 to Venetian Scene at Newton Abbot in July and unraced since Krabloontic Creditable showings all starts this term, close 3rd to Brush With Time on this course (almost unseated two out and now 2b better off). That to Zatareli (winner since) at Folkestone and a 10-longth 2nd to Pietro Bernton here last time. Fire chance Grate British: Won two selers lest season and creditable 5th to Brambierill Duke at Chepton Scene Britishes With take lest time when last-of-6 to Tickerty's Gift at Lingfield (El Grandoctot Britishes). Beat Flative's First in Teamon seler last. February and creditable 2nd to Furny Gerle in 19-runner Folkestone handscap next time. Firs and the Flat in October ance when 5th of 8 to Tickerty's Gift at Lingfield. VERDICT: A pour race with Mass Onder, Glowain ground. Selection and a destrone with Mass Onder, Glowain ground. Selection and the Flat in October ance when 5th of 8 to Tickerty's Gift at Lingfield.

*THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 972 982 WETHERBY 973 983 LINGFIELD

> ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

KEMPTON Going: Soft (Heavy patches)

1.15: (2m 5f novice handicap hurdle) I. MAGIC COMBINATION _____

£190. DF: £1390. CSF: £1537. NFt: River Best.

Also run: 5-2 tay Robins Pride (4th), 9-2 Sier-7 a Bay. 5 ran. 5. 6. 12. (Whener chestrut golding by Phardente out of Belcraig, trained by O Gris-nel at Robertsbridge for Mrs. R M Hepburn). Total: 0420; C130, C240, DF: C650, CSF: CT.54 MR: Native Charm.

2.56: (3m 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
1. (Winner bey golding forking Model, trained s at Chelenterm for it: \$400; \$220, \$229.
2.53: NR: River Best.
2.55: SN NR: River Best.
2.56: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.57: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.58: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.57: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.57: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.58: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie)
2.57: Com 1Dyds handicap hurdie
2.57: Com 1Dyds hurdie
2.57:

17 man, 3%, 7, 12, 5 sh-hid, (Worner bay gold- 4.00; (2m novice hundle) In grant Ser. It is a series to the property of the property o \$25/410 Tota Trilectiz 06/22400 (pert wort; pool today), NR: Lansdowne.

4 ran. B. dist. (Winner bay gelding by King's Ride out of Cahore, bained by D Netroson at Temple Gurling for Mira AJ Danes), Total C250. DF: 0160. CSF: 0450.

Microsoft San Nordinas (Transit Ory, 301) Golden Fam, Nordinas 15 ran, 10, 4 ½, 5, 10, (Winner bay golding by Nariski our of Pamela Peach, trained by Mass Vensila Williams of Hardend for Pobert (Cyber). Toss: \$250; \$130, 1540, 1590, DF, \$280, CSF-SST, MAL Gold Carcons Winner Memorial

Jackpot: Not won: \$4593.50 carried forward to Wireshits today.
Physicot: \$15650. Quedpot: \$1790.
Place 6: £5654 Place 5: £2803.

WOLVERHAMPTON Gong: Standard 1.00: 1. MONCHANIA (Dane O'Neil) 4-1; 2. Doberman 9-2: 3. Two On The Bridge 5-1 8 ran. 5-2 kv Rotley Spriney (8th), 2%, 3%, (J Sprang, Alcestar) Tota: 5590: \$130, 5140 \$210, DF: \$360, CSF: \$2104

VERDICT: A poor race with Miss Ondee, Glowing Path, Janglymyve, GRATE BRITISH end Fighting Times being seler winners. Grate British is virtually guaranteed to cope with the testing underloot conditions and appeals with competent Xavier Alzpuru booked.

RESULTS

2607. NR: Femis Governor, Young Me:

1.30: 1. TINKER'S SURPRISE (J'Edmunda) 6-1; 2. Sotonian 7-2 ta; 3. Maritoumie 8-1 12 ran. 1. 2. J. Belding, Dorcaster) Toto: 0590: 620, 6150, 6470 DF 61440 CSP: 62256. Titcast £15384 2.00: 1. POLAR MIST (Dear McKeown) 9-4; 2. loc Age 9-4, 3. See Me 11-10 fav 4 ran, 5. %. (Mrs N Macauley, Melton Mowbray). Tota: C3.30 OF C2.00 CSF C6.99

2.35: 1. AVENGING ANGEL (T Sprake) 7.1; 2. Muddy Water 25-1; 3. Red Venus 7-1; 12 nan. 6-5 fev La Peazea, 8. 3. (N Litmodern Newmarket, Tote: 630; £160, £220, £140, £7: £240 CS; £160, £220, £140, £7: £40; £160, £220, £140, £7: £40; £160, £1

Cricket: England's World Cup hopes rest heavily on cavalier opener whose brief is simply to hit the cover off the ball

Knight takes one-day life on the run

outrageous sights in English cricket is that of Nick Knight running up the pitch and hitting fast bowlers straight back over their heads. It is a shot which defies all known conventions and contradicts the misguided impression of some Australian pundits that England have given the game nothing since

While it is no more than an extension to the Sri Lankans' introduction of pinch-hitting to the one-day game, it embodies England's revitalised approach. It is currently being exhibited to joyous if mixed effect in Australia, where Knight is opening the batting in the oneday series. It serves at least two purposes apart from its potential of adding big runs at the beginning of the innings: it shows England's willingness to improvise in attack and it gets right up the opposition's

"Actually I find it easier to hit the ball when I'm on the run," says Knight, "It's not exactly a fine judgement, I do it to unsettle the bowler, to make him think more because he doesn't know when I'll be coming and then try to hit as straight as I can while covering my stumps

"I started it when the 15over fielding rule came in two For three years ago. Only two men are outside the circle, so there are gaps, and it's another attacking stroke. The bowler won't know what's coming If I was going in at five I

The shot, which perhaps should be called the Knight Flight given its protagonist's rapid departure from the crease and the likely trajectory of the ball, is but a part, al- and Knight's is to whack the heit a significant one, of Knight's scintillating dodges.

the soul of village cricketers cricket. everywhere, and he is lightning between the wickets. Those at-making a maiden century he

ONE OF the most thrilling and BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Melbourne

> tion, have made him indispensable to England's one-day team, the platform of the in-

This very week his coach, David Lloyd, was asked what Knight meant to the side and likened his absence to that of Steve Waugh from Australia or Aravinda De Silva from Sri Lanka. It weakens you, but also lifts your opponents. Knight is not indispensable. but he is integral to England's intention of plundering runs in

the early part of their innings. His recent record is astonishing for the regularity with which he does exactly the job he is paid for. Only twice in the past 20 matches has he been out to the new ball, and while his three one-day centuries hardly set him apart the scored two of them on successive days against Pakistan four years ago), he sets the momentum of

"I'm fairly philosophical about it. Sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't. But it isn't necessarily restricted to 15 overs either. Quite often the fielding team keep men in so you're provided with 18

"The way I play in one-day cricket is purely manufactured. wanted to come up with something that had a chance of working, hut it's only because it fits into my role in the side. wouldn't play like that."

Knight exemplifies the evolution of the team being nurtured for the World Cup. Each member, it is said, has been given a clearly defined role cover off the ball any way he thinks fit. It is slightly worrying He also has an exciting for him that all this one-day cav-

After first playing in 1995 and

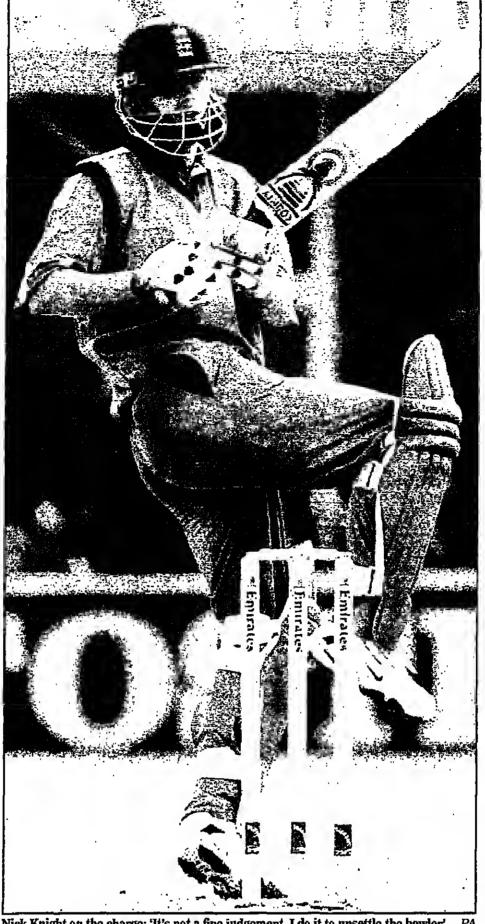
injuries allowed him to appear against South Africa last summer, his sloppy manners nutside the off stump to the swinging new ball were ex-

This was nnt simply a case of his Warwickshire colleague Allan Donald being aware of all his shortcomings, it was clear cover the stump. The pushes at the ball which resulted in his being caught at slip were nnt a pretty sight.

Knight has worked to cure the defect, which does not diminish him unduly in the 50over game, hut his Test future may lie at No 6, the position in which he scored his only Test century against Pakistan. True. he may face the new ball, hut he has the experience of that, and the bowlers, hy then, should he tired.

His dashingly innovative methnds could easily cut a swathe through the World Cup next summer, and he has a bowler or two in Australia to irk yet this month. In the first two matches of the Carlton & United series he settled in as usual and made 30 and 40 before giving it away. But he has looked in command and his perpetual encouragement of England in the field ("letting the opposition know we're there and would like to stop runs") suggests that the mould which produced Jonty Rhodes was not quite exclusive.

One-day cricket has altered completely. There are things being done that wouldn't have been dreamt of I've played 28 matches, but if I'd been in any other country that figure would probably have been 50. That's why this triangular tournament is so important to us. We're playing all these matches and seeing so many different situare to have a chance in the World Cup."



Nick Knight on the charge: 'It's not a fine judgement. I do it to unsettle the bowler'

mer Essex opener Gordon tégé last week. "Great lad," he run counts so you've got to look sweep slog which is aimed at alier stuff might have dam- ations. This is the sort of ex- Barker, who probably did not said. "Should have a drink now to take them and you've got to cow corner and should warm aged his chances in Test perience we need if England teach him the sweep slog but and then." But Knight is as- look to stop them. They can be passed on much else. The pair siduous in his diet and tests turning points, as catches can. still keep in touch, and Barker show he is the fittest man in the There are lots of bittle things Knight learned the game at was there when Knight was England team. tributes, not to mention his has fallen back in the selecto- Felsted School, where he was married last autumn and was

"I think we can do still more cent, but they all add up to the

supreme fielding in any posi-rial pecking order. Although coached by the long-serving for- in Queensland to see his pro- in the field. Honestly, every winning run or wicket."

which may only count for 0.1 per

Alleyne may keep place on fielding

IT IS much too early to suggest that England have moved ahead of Australia in the oneday game, but victory in the past four meetings with them is at least a stab at assembling evidence. Making it five tomorrow in Melbourne would not only add to the documentation but seriously enhance England's prospects in the Cariton & United Series.

Australia's eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in Sydney yesterday, which comprised most nf their virtues and eventually came at a canter, hardly diminishes the contest. Another England win would give them three from three in the qualifying matches and an overwhelming advantage.

Within the space of a week England would have moved from the least fancied team in the triangular tournament to the favourites.

Not that the England captain, Alec Stewart, was going down that road yesterday. Quite the opposite, actually. He was visibly and audibly

perky, possibly because he had a day off and was going to watch Tim Henman play tennis across town, but he was still guarded in talking up his side's chances of qualifying for the final next month. "If we win six I would have thought we'd have a good chance of qualifying," he

England have obviously been doormats for too long. If they win six and fail to qualify they ought to call the newly armed International Cricket Council and have an inquiry established. With the teams playing each other five times there are 15 qualifying matches in all. Thus, anybody winning six is certain to go through.

Stewart, however, is understandably anxious not to make too much of England's splendid start to the competition. Two victories in close matches will obviously have lifted the esteem of a side which combines the experienced with the novice, but they are not going to persuade him to change his last Sunday. we'll take every game as it comes' approach. In similar take advantage again tomorvein he also declined to offer row Steve Waugh is not certain any clues to England's side for to return to Australia's ranks, the match.

The likelihood is that the XI

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY

which beat Sri Lanka in the second match at Brisbane will be retained though it will be worth considering a change to try to strengthen the batting

It is possible to get too pernickety about who should go in where, but in this company Adam Hollioake looks uncomfortably high at five. He could move to six, with Mark Alleyne standing down and Vince Wells coming into the team to bat at

But fielding may decide the issue on this occasion. Wells is by no means a slouch, but Alleyne is positively athletic. It is nne nf life's little quirks that he has already become a national figure on these shores because of the error he made in chasing a ball against Australia. His dnuble tumble has been endlessly repeated nn televi-

If England decide against changes they could still alter the batting order if a wicket went down in the first 15 overs. In that case Mark Ealham could go in at three to pinch-hit, with Graeme Hick and Neil Fairbrother dropping down a place. What a science it has all

"The way we've won gives the guys a lot of confidence," said Stewart. "There's a game plan that we have and we know how we want to play and what we are all doing. Fielders just. go to their places. They know where they should be 80 per cent of the time."

As this tournament continues, the World Cup in England in four months' time draws more and more attention, and Stewart knows his team are playing for their places. "We played very poorly in the last World Cup, as poor as we ever have. We are much better pre-

England beat Australia three times at home in 1997 to lift the Texaco Trophy in style and extended the sequence

They are shrewd enough to though Shane Warne has led them well.

WETHERBY

1.20 Carbury Cross 1.50 Cardinal Rule 2.20 Kings Measure 2.50 YOUNG KENNY (nap) 3.25 Scottnn Green (nb) 3.55 Buabhall Mor INSPECTION: 7.30am

INSPECTION: 7-30mm
GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).

Left-hand oval circuit. Run-en of 200yds alightly uphil.

Course is NE of town on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1.

ADMISSION: Cub £13 (accompanied under-16s free): Tattersals

St. Course £3 (CAPS £150) or 500 per car with up to four adults.

Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mins M Ruweley 39-184 (212%). T Enstending 32-133 (213%), Mins S Smith B-103 (175%). D Nicholson 17-78 (215%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Wyer 46-174 (264%). P Nivers 33-153 (215%). A Dobbin 22-127 (173%). R Quest 18-85 (212%).

E FAVOURITES: 196-466 (419%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Aren't We Lucky (355).

1.20 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 8 ALTHREY TORCH (27) W Cay 7 If 0. G Rarmay
-048 CALLFOURSEASONS (54) (C) Mrs A Swinbank 7 If 0. J Supple
4 CARBURY CROSS (27) J J O'Nell 5 If 0. R McGrath
06-72 DENIC CENTURY (18) Mrs S Smith 7 If 0. S Darack
0-0 ELSARONI (18) J Tumer 6 If 6 R Supple
5-56 GALINDO (19) J Howard Johnson 5 If 0. D Parker
CP-22 GUS BERRY (27) D M Forsice 8 If 0. N Williamson
HABRADAY HILL J Parker 7 If 0. A DOODLY

BETTING: 5-2 Californiasons, 3-1 Demi Contany, 11-2 Prince Tot, 7-1
Carbury Cross, Gue Berry, 10-1 Herotony Hill, 12-1 Mendombank, Ker-Carbury Cross, Gus Berry, 10-1 Harmony Hill, 12-1 Meedowit risdele, Althrey Torch, Galindo, Radmore Sexon, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

Califourseasons appeared to have his limitations exposed at Antire, and the stable has been out of form. Preference is for CARBURY CROSS, who should have learned from his debut effort, and Gallindo.

31-UP1 CARDINAL RULE (14) (D) Miss V Williams 10 ft 10 N Williamson

FORM VERDICT Cardinal Rule has never encountered ground this testing and for that reason RIVER UNSHION is preferred. We know the latter goes well in the mud and, as Cardinal Rule is likely to be taxoured in the market, he looks to be the value.

4 PD2512 CUMBRIAN MAESTRO (13) (0) T Essierby 8 to 10 ... Wyer 6 5 210-62 CAP IT IF YOU CAN (16) (0) T Calcivel 8 107 Mr R Portistal (5) - 5 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Kings Messure, 9-4 Cumbrien Maestro, 9-2 Grooving, 5-1

Angdom Emperor, 6-1 Cap it if You Can FORM VERDICT

Kings Measure, Grooving and Cap It If You Can seem ideally served by 2m4f. The testing conditions will help bring their stamme into play, but Cumbrian Maestro and KINGDOM EM-PEROR are both fully affective over the minimum trip in the mud and can dominate. The letter has the edge on a line through Lord

2.50 MONKTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 3m 1f

- 9 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Quitall Crossett for 7to.
BETTING: 6-4 Sents Concento, 7-2 Share Options, 4-1 Young Kenny, 5-1
Step On Eyra, 11-2 Listen Timmy, 100-1 Quitall Crossett

FORM VERDICT

A fascinating staying chase in which SANTA CONCERTO will be all the rage following a couple of highly impressive displays this season. He will like the ground, clearly has a big engine and will be difficult to best granted a clear round. Step On Eyme and Young Kenny are very talented in their own right but may have come up against a top notcher in the shape of Santa Concerto 3.25 TOWTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) £20,000 added 3m 1f

- 6 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Kadou Novambia, 5-2 Edward, 7-2 Scotton Green, 6-1 Ardest Scout, 7-1 King Pin

FORM VERDICT THE MP is the major worry for Kadou Monantais and white Ed-mond is a horse of considerable potential, his jumping has not fitted everyone with confidence. Consequently, it could be worth taking a chance with KING PIN, who seems to be getting his act together now and whose best form is on very soft ground.

3.55 HEALAUGH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS H'CAP HURDLE (F) \$2,500 2m 4f 110yds

-7 declared - Manimum weight: 10st True herdicap weight: 10st True herdicap weight 10st 11st Milisty Ches, 3-1 Scottmill Lad, 4-1 Aren't We Lucky, 11-2 Bushhall Mor, Glecial Denose, 6-1 Jago, 16-1 Skone River FORM VERDICT

SCOTMAIL LAD is going very much the right way and, though 12b higher than when last contesting a handcap (on this course; form worked out well), can show the way 10 Misty Class on ground

Gilchrist hits out in style

memorable century to help in Sydney power Australia to a recordbreaking win over the world Sri Lanka 259-9 champions, Sri Lanka, in yesterday's Carlton & United Series one-day international at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Gilchrist Australia's new one-day wicketkeeper, upstaged the Sri Lankan opener. Sanath Jayasuriya, in the battle of the big hitters with an astonishing innings of 131 off 118 balls, the fourth-highest limited-overs score hy an Australian. Jayasuriya smashed 65 from

62 balls in Sri Lanka's seemingly unbeatable 259 for 9. which required a record SCG run chase to eclipse the 257 for 5 made by the hosts against Sri Lanka at the venue in 1995-96. However, the Australians

reached their target of 260 for the loss of just two wickets with almost four overs to spare as Gilchrist struck two sixes overs, slowed the run-rate until and 10 fours. It was his fourth century in a year since being promoted to opener in place of the Test captain, Mark Taylor, and he has more than justified his selection as a batsman.

Mark Waugh hit a measured 63 from 76 balls as Gilchrist dominated their opening stand of 151 in 156 balls. Gilchrist's of 151 in 156 balls. Glichrist's first 50 came off just 37 delivers, including a swept six off feet in 150 came of fust 37 delivers, including a swept six off feet in 150 came of fusion feet in 150 came of the spinner Muttiah Muralitharan on to the top deck of one of the SCG grandstands.

Ricky Ponting remained unbeaten on 43 as Australia reached their target after helping add 74 for the second wicket. Jayasuriya had earlier reached his 50 off as many balls while putting on 95 in 15 overs with his opening partner, Romesh Kaluwitharana, who made 32 off 38 deliveries without seeing much of the strike.

Accurate bowling from the home captain Shane Warne, who took 2 for 44 from his 10

ADAM GILCHRIST clubbed a By JULIAN LINDEN

Australia 260-2



Australia win by eight wkts

Gilchrist reaches century

a surge in the last five overs as Hashan Tillakaratne hit 73.

Did not bat: G P Wickramasing Bowling: McGrath 10-0-39-1; Fleming 10-0-81-1; Blewert 2-0-23-0; Julian 8-0-42-2; Warne 10-1-44-2; Bevan 5-0-26-0; Martyn 5-0-20-0.

tyn 5-0-20-0.

AUSTRALIA

†A C Gichrist c Alapattu b Vaas...
M E Waugh e sub b Muraitharan ..
R T Ponting not out...
O R Martyn not out...
Estras (b3, w4)...
Total [for 2, 46.1 ownry].... Pall: 1-151, 2-225. Did not bate G S Blewett, M G Bevan, "S K Warne, B P Julian, D W Fleming, B E Young, G D McGrath, Bowling: Vaas 5-1-43-1; Wicknamasinghe 7-1-36-0; Muralithuran 10-0-49-1; Jayanurha 7-1-0-28-0.

LINGFIELD

1.00 Plpe Music 1.30 Latin Bay 2.00 Speedy Classic 2.30 Sweet Serenata 3.00 Mukarrab 3.35 Shogun 4.05 Present 'N Correct

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Thi - outside; rest - Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7t.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undutating course.

Course is Se of lown on 82028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10.

CAR PARK: Club 53; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 83-633 (31%), R Heathon 47-982 (13%), M Johnston 44-290 (65%), G Kalfering 47-291 (41%), ELADING JOCKEYS; A Clink 72-584 (123%), J Weare 68-307 (21%), S Sanders 65-563 (155%), R Cochrene 52-325 (16%).

E FAVOURITIES: 689-2090 (33.4%).

E LONG DISTANCE RUNNIERS: Pipe Music (100, Pageboy (300), Burnier 69-307 (33.4%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Pipe Music (100, Rigning (100), Scallet Crescent (130), Missinewimew (200), Mustang (visored, 405).

1.00 LINGFIELD RACECOURSE & STATION HANDICAP (F) (DIV I) £2,750 added 2m

wig 7st 7th, Trypy Silvano 7st 5th. BETTING: 13-8 Pipe Music, 4-1 Spich And Spien, Romandeons Cheme, 7-1 Kelle's Cracker, 10-1 Ele-Yie-Mou, Queen Of Tides, Daddy's Polly, 20-1 attents FORM VERDICT

It will be interesting to see if after Bigwing or Broather Beecon, who have hundles form, attract support, but better to stick with those with recent Flat form. Pipe Music his been running well on Fibresand and has to be leared, but SPICK ANO SPAN and will be rundle a fet tent beaution better to be the will be rundle a fet tent beaution. well in quite a fair trust handicap here on New Year's Day and a bit better can be expected over today's more suitable inp.

1.50 WIKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 4 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weight: Monaugitiy Man 8st 0lb.
BETTING: Brans Cardinal Rule, 7-4 River Unablion, 3-1 Too Plush, 100-1

2.20 CDWTHDRPE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 26,500 added 2m

1.30 LITTLE ACORNS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 4f

FORM VERDICT

Not too many consistent types to choose from, as you would expect in a seller. A chance is taken on SCARLET CRESCENT reproducing the course form she showed on her perutimete start, which could well be good enough today. Latin Bay and likehandis are also of interest and should run well.

2.00 PENNY WISE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m

OS,000 BOSTING PRIDE (278) C Donci(Bel) 79 12 P Roberts (3) 1
07235 MIGHT CITY (12) (C) (D) K Burle 6 6 2 D D Sweeney 4
00033 DHONYS (GER) (12) C Donch(BEL) 5 6 2 D Booley (7) 11
1002 SPEEDY CLASSIC (8) (CD) M Heaton-Elis 10 9 2 A Clark 5
04500 POLY BLUE (75) Mas G Kelberry 4 6 11 W Ryen 3
00400 MSMEWMEN (48) L A Dack 4 6 7 T G McLamphin 7 6
04005 DANDY RESENT (15) JL Herris 58 4 D Chain 12
005.05 JJBTHWAMUS (7) (C) J Bordon 7 9 4 D Bardwell 2

Night City has a big chance on form, but the question is whether he will be able to dominate over this shorter trip, especially with speedy Classic, who often leads over sharies trips, in the line up. The percentage call is to side with SOAKING, who is a regular over this trip and should get 8 good lead.

2.30 LINGFIELD RACECOURSE & STATION HANDICAP (F) (DIV II) 52,750 added 2m

A second weak division of this two-miler, the two lop weights still maidene on the Flat. Coloridge as in form at the moment, but it is anyone's guess how long that will confinue while the way Pedault surrendered victory to him here lest time is hardly encouraging for his supporters. Pertenge Mission has to be respected, but perhaps SWEET SERENATA can make it third time

3.00 APPLE A DAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 6f

FORM VERDICT Despite his rise in the weights, it is doubtful if the handicapper has yet caught up with MUKARRAB, whose recent efforts read very well indeed. The track suits him ideally and from a decent draw he will be hard to peg back initiatesh is entitled to get closer to him than she did 12 days ago with a better run, but a 6th pull does not look enough for her to turn the tables.

3.35 WEDDINGS AT LINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (D) £5,250 added 1m 2f STAKES (D) £5,250 added 1m 2f

4 SEVEN 0 SEVEN (8) P Curdet 89 2. S Whitworth 9

6/40-0 FESTIVAL FLYER (5) Mass (S Kelsmey 4 9 6. W Flyen 8

3 00004 FURSIAN (15) M Madgwick 4 9 0. P Don (6) 7

4 55504 MEPRY PRINCE (24) P Hedger 4 6 0. Dane O'Nells 1

5 30232 NAKED OAT (19) B Smert 4 8 0. R Perham 10

6 035 RUSHED (18) O Emight 4 9 0 P Fessey 8

7 4234 SHOGUN (145) K Barks 4 8 6. D Sweecey 6

8 0-0 TORNESHO (8) B Curley 4 9 0 J Quiton 11

9 0003 ZANA (174) Peants 4 9 0. R Price 2

10 3/45 BOLD BECKY (19) A P Jones 5 8 m T Spraks 3

10 003/0 LIBERTIE BELL (19) D Hegyl Lorres 4 9 8 F Norton 4

BETTING: 84 Shogus, 11-2 Nationd Oat, 6-1 Zaha, 7-1 Seven O Seven, Festival Flyer, 18-1 Torsero, 14-1 Bold Becky, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT Although he lacks AW experience. SHOGUN stands out on his turf form in what is little better than a plaing-class event and he has gone to a yard that does extremely well with its AW runners. Naked Out is the pick of those who race on sand, but he has yet to prove he handles Equitrack, too.

4.05 FRIEND IN NEED HANDICAP (CLASS E) \$3,500 added 7f Penalty Value \$2,697

Aetral Invader 7st 5th, Chrose 7st 3th. BETTING: 9-2 Shadee Of Love, 5-1 John Brundler Music, 6-1 Hyde Park, Alig Denote, 8-1 Constitutional States, 10-1 Stating, Present 'N Correct, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT The craw has done no fevoure to the progressive John Bowdler Music or to Hyde Perk, who will struggle to dominate with other front numers racing inside him. A tast-run 7f may turn out to be the optimum conditions for COMEOUTOFTHEFOG, who had three good afforts at im here at the end of last year while leaving the impression today's shorter arip would be ideal.

Giant leap for Smith's peace of mind

Britain's foremost high jumper has iust made his first attempt in six months to clear the bar – he failed but is delighted. By Mike Rowbottom

SHORTLY BEFORE three o'clock yesterday afternoon in the empty, echoing vastness of Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, Steve Smith failed to clear 2.10 metres in the high jump. He could not have been happier.

Just over five months earlier, a freak training accident had left Britain's Olympic bronze medallist unable to move his head or neck. This was his first effort over a bar since then - one small jump for Steve Smith, one giant leap for his mind. As be approached his take-off

with a full run-up, the only sound was the crescendo of his footsteps followed by a clanging and clattering as he sent both the bar and one of the supports flying. He lay still for a moment on the landing bed before flipping himself upright with the ache that has become his trademark in a seven-year international career. Three more jumps, the last of them at 2.20m, reinforced the message: he was back in business

"There was a real sense of relief," he said. "I felt like a high jumper again. This was my first jump for almost six months and I was using a new run-up for the first time, so the whole thing felt very weird. But after this I know I can be very, very competitive again this season.

The details of the accident on 7 July remain horribly clear to him. It happened in an ordinary jump at the Wavertree track in his native city of Liverpool, two days before he was due to compete in the Oslo Grand Prix. "As soon as I landed on my back it was really painful," he said. "I couldn't move off the landing bed. But I thought that maybe it was just a matter of having to click something back into place. I hadn't ruled out Oslo."

Twenty minutes later, still prostrate and with paramedics stabilising his neck, he had ruled out Oslo - but was still thinking in terms of a month or two out of action. It was not until the following morning as be lay in a surgical collar at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, that the severity of his position sank in. "They had to give me morphine for the pain," he said. "I was so sleepy that my consultant



Jump of joy: Steve Smith back in business in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena yesterday after recovering from a disabling injury that threatened his athletics career

had to wake me up to give me a diagnosis. He spouted all this jargon. and then disappeared.

"Malcolm Brown, the British team doctor, was with me at the time, so I said to him, What does all that mean?' And he told me I would not be jumping for the rest of the year at least. I was just devastated."

In one alarming incident he had been turned from an athlete who stood at the top of the world rankings to an anxious 25-year-old wondering if he would ever be an athlete again.

Smith was in hospital for 10 days. but spent longer worrying over a succession of diagnoses. At first, it was

thought he had torn intro-spinous lig-aments and suffered a prolapsed disk. A second opinion presented a different picture: no ligament tear, and disk which may have been

His mind was taken off his own predicament in August, when he travelled to the European Championships as non-playing British team captain. But the frustrations arose

10 minutes to realise that he could not face following the Games on television. "I thought to myself, "You don't want to be watching this'," he said. By this time, however, he had

'I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics. I want to be in Sydney having done everything possible to give myself the chance of winning'

prolapsed before the accident. "It was a really confusing time," Smith said. "I kept thinking: If it's not clear what happened, what was to stop it happening again in the same way?"

again the following month as English athletes, including his main domestic rival Dalton Grant, swept up the titles at the Commonwealth Games in of Tudor Bidder the technical di-Kuala Lumpur. It took Smith about

decided to draw a metaphorical line underneath the events of the summer. He left Liverpool to live and train in Birmingham under the guidance

Year by the sport's governing body.

the International Sailing Federation.

may appear at some regattas in New

He now takes a hit of a rest, hut

rector of jumps for PAS, the Lotterydistributing body for British athletics. Bidder who worked for most of the 1990s coaching in the Australian Institute of Sport, started Smith's rehabilitation programme, backed up by frequent physiotherapy.

A couple of months ago many of Smith's lingering concerns over his condition were allayed by another member of the AIS, Peter Stanton, who was in England to advise UK Athletics 98 on a physiotherapy programme. Stanton told Smith he had rotated his vertebrae in the accident three had turned one way, two the other Smith's team of physics are

now concentrating on keeping them

all in line, Smith will return to the same Birmingham arena at the end of this month for the AAA's indoor championships, before turning his thoughts to the World indoor and outdoor championships later this year But the real goal hes beyond.

"I am dedicating myself 100 per cent to doing well at the 2000 Olympics," he said. "I want to be in Sydney having done everything I possibly could to give myself a chance

Yesterday marked a significant step towards that ambition.

Brave Jim

1-0

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No sanctions on World champion Ainslie **Salt Lake City**

THE International Olympic Committee has ruled out imposing any sanctions against Salt Lake City officials in connection with the Olympic Games' biggest corruption scandal, an IOC investigator said

"The commission will not recommend any action against Salt Lake City," said Jacques Rogge, a member of the IOC panel investigating allegations of bribery in the city's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games. "There is no action to be

Rogge, meanwhile, confirmed that up to 12 IOC members have been implicated in the inquiry hut rejected calls for the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to resign as "ridiculous". He also said the IOC was prepared to investigate charges of corruption in other host city election campaigns, including claims that Sydney officials were approached for hribes during their successful hid for the 2000 Summer

Rogge, a Belgian member of the IOC's executive board, said the sixman investigative panel had considered sanctions against Salt Lake officials connected with the 2002 bid. However, he said the possibility was ruled out after the Salt Lake organising committee's leading two

officials, president Frank Joklik and vice president Dave Johnson. resigned last week. "The people who were in the bid are no more,' Rogge said. "They took the actions

The head of the bid committee, Tom Welch, is also no longer associated with the Games. He resigned as president of the organising comin a separate, private matter.

"The only action we could have discussed was against the people in the bid committee who were still on the organising committee," Rogge said. "As they have resigned, there is definitely no need for action. This does not imply any judgement on their behaviour at this stage."

Rogge said he understood that "around a dozen" IOC members had been implicated in the Salt Lake investigation. Letters were sent to those members this week demanding an explanation.

uary in Lausanne, Switzerland, to conclude its findings, and will make recommendations to the full executive hoard the following day.

Samaranch has said that any members found guilty of corruption

ON TOP of the world Down Under. Ben Ainslie won the World Laser

they thought were needed."

mittee last year after being charged

The IOC panel meets on 23 Jan-

the vital fourth place.

Championship in considerable style at Port Phillip Bay yesterday. The 1996 Olympic silver medallist could have afforded to sit out from the last of the 12-race series, leaving the Atlanta Games gold medallist and the man he has beaten four times since then, the Brazilian Robert Scheidt, and Sweden's Karl Sunesson to

fight it out for second and third. But he chose to sail that final race "because the waves were getting quite steep and the wind was picking up, and I thought it would be a hit of a blast. It was good to be out there racing." He capsized a few times and finished a lowly 18th, hut it was typical of a man who seemingly has an insatiable appetite for

competition. The 21-year old, now based in Lymington and who celebrates his 22nd hirthday on the fifth of next month, needed only fourth place in the 11th race of the series to win on a counthack. Third gave him the world title outright. Despite being 15th at the end of the first leg. sailed in a south-westerly gusting over 20 knots, he soon pulled up to

Ainslie was working the, short, steep waves to good effect, his fitness programme paying dividends and two months of training in Australia being rewarded. So, for good meaBY STUART ALEXANDER in Melbourne

sure, he overtook the American Mark Mendelblatt on the last leg to finish third hehind Scheidt and Sunesson, and he knew the game

It was only in 1995 that Ainslie was winning gold in the World Youth Championship. A year later he was wearing Olympic silver, but in both the 1996 and 1997 Laser World Championships, in Cape Town and Chile respectively, he was third. Last year he won the world single-

Zealand, an invitational in Dubai, before looking forward - with perhaps a try at the two-handed Star keelboat along the way - to the pre-Olympic regatta at Sydney in September. But he still has to go through the UK trial system at the heginning of next year to earn his place to represent Britain at the Games. And he



Ben Ainslie is all smiles during yesterday's final race Allsport

hander championship, sailed in is well aware that Britain has Lasers, beating Robert Scheidt in strength in depth in the Laser class, Dubai. He went on to win the Eu-Andrew Simpson's fifth place in ropean Championship in Portugal Melbourne giving them two in the

and was voted the World Sailor of the Taking time out from the adjacent race course to congratulate Ainslie was the Soling skipper, Andy Beadsworth. An 11th in the first race of the day was enough to maintain his sixth position overall. But, with the Australian Cameron Miles scoring two wins, Beadsworth slipped to seventh at the end of the day.

Iain Percy remains fourth overall in the Finn Gold Cup, and Britain's other top single-hander, Shirley Robertson, had a worst-so-far ninth in the opening race in the Europe. hut third place in the second race also kept her fourth overall.

Four British crews have made it through to the 25-strong finals of the 49er Skiff World Championship, which starts its 11-race series today. They are Andy and Ian Budgen, Tim Robinson and Ian Walker, Paul Brotherton and Neal McDonald, and the current national champinn, Ian Barker, partnered with the Australian Daniel Phillips.

Britain is also the current leader of the competition for the International Olympic Committee Cup, presented by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, for the topscoring nation in the seven Olympic-

stadium around three miles ahead of his rivals but dehydration had taken its toll. He fell six times and his English team-mates at trackside could not help for fear that he would be disqualified. They were finally able to go to his aid when it was clear he was not going to cross the line. The

Peters, who had broken the world record four times previously, retired from athletics after the Games - "It

Prutour proves a big draw

THE PRUTOUR in May will he shorter by two days than the inaugural nine-day race last year, hut it will be tougher than ever, the organisers warned when the route was unveiled in London yesterday.

With around £100,000 in prize money on offer, the Prutour claims to be the world's fourth-richest race, and the itinerary ensures that the riders will earn every penny. The 1,178kilometre (732-mile) race has been upgraded by the world governing body the Union Cycliste Internationale, who have also increased its allocation of world ranking points. Under UCI rules the duration has had to be reduced to seven days because of the rope, making the racing harder

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL

Three of the 18-team places have been filled already by high-quality squads. Chris Boardman and his Australian team-mate, Stuart O'Grady, who were respectively second and first last year, return with their French team Credit Agricole.

US Postal Service, whose riders include Lance Armstrong, who recently won his fight against cancer, will be out to improve on their team all strength in depth of this year's victory last May.

With the inclusion of the Dutch team Rabobank, the challenge to any Prutour's enhanced status, but it British hopes could be awesome, should draw class opposition from Eu- given the European racers' more intensive programme.

The Prutour opens with a race around the Thames Embankment and Whitehall on 23 May, and ends with another circuit race in Princes

Street, Edinburgh, on 29 May. In between lies some exacting racing, with the Bristol to Swansea leg on day four described by the race director, Alan Rushton, as "the hardest we have ever had. This will be one of the toughest races ever held

in this country." On British hopes for success, Boardman said: "Despite the overrace, we will come with the same approach as last year."

proacts as last year.

1999 PRITOUR SCHEDULE: 23 May Westminster circuit race: 24 May Medway to
Porsmouth and Porsmouth time-trial; 25 May
Winchester to Bristol. 36 May Bristol to Swanses;
27-May Swanses to Brimingham; 28 May Liverpool-Blackpool; 29 May Carlisle to Edinburgh
and Edinburgh circuit race.

Maier to race despite injury

THE DOUBLE Olympic champion Hermann Maier will ignore a back injury in order to compete at Wengen and Kitzbühel, the two toughest

downhill events on the Alpine circuit. The Austrian had been hoping to take a break from the World Cup to rest his back before next month's World Championships in Vail, but yesterday said he had decided to carry on in order to protect his lead

in the overall standings. "The back is not so good but not so bad either... we're working on it." Maier who won a shortened downhill in Wengen last year, said. "I'm racing Wengen for sure and Kitzbühel

next weekend if it does not get worse. "Normally it would be better to rest but I'm in pretty good shape, except for my back."

SKIING

Maier said that he will also race two sialoms, a discipline he usually avoids, to collect combined points.

The Norwegian all-rounder Kietil Andre Aamodt, the 1994 overall champion and Maier's closest rival, is 228 points behind the Austrian in the overall standings, but could easily close the gap over the coming week if Maier were not to compete.

Maier now plans to be in the start hut for every race leading up to the World Championships, including the two sialom events, starting with the demanding Lauberhorn downhill on Saturday. With pain-killers and muscle relaxants already a regular part of Maier's pre-race preparations, the reigning World Cup cham-

pion is also resorting to more traditional Austrian remedies. He has been undergoing massages several times a day and having therapy with hot sands applied to the back

Maier has won six races this season, including a giant slalom victory in Adelboden on Tuesday. But with Saturday's downhill and Sunday's slalom making up the season's first combined event, Maier is well aware that Aamodt, who is equally skilled in both the speed and

vantage almost overnight. Maier, whose aggressive style more suited to the downhill and super-giant slalom, rarely competes in slalom but was still good enough to win last year's combined in Wen-

technical events, could erase his ad-

TOMORROW



RICHARD WILLIAMS IN LAS VEGAS SIN CITY CLEANS UP ITS ACT

8 **2 9**

Peters dies at 80 THE MARATHON legend Jim Peters,

who caught the imagination of the public at the 1954 Empire Games in Canada when he staggered round the last lap, has died aged 80.

"Jim was a class runner when marathon running, unlike today, was unfashionable," said David Bedford, the international race director of the London Marathon and a former 10,000 metres world record holder. "He trained harder than most often 100 miles a week - and believed in the work ethic with his thousands of miles run in plimsoles. My first memories of him were from newspaper pictures showing him collapsing when in sight of the finish. Few athletes push themselves to such exhaustion.

Peters entered the Vancouver race was won by the Scot, Joe McGhee, hut Peters' efforts are fixed in the minds of millions who watched it on Movietone News.

cost me my killer instinct," he said. Obituary, Review, page 7

THE INDEPENDENT Thursday 14 January 1999 McKenzie slams 'whingeing' foreigners McKenzie insists that he and loved it—so much so that Bridge is not mirrored whith the success at Stamford Bri

McKenzie has spoken out against "moaning" foreign play-

ers who earn a living in Britain. McKenzie himself has experienced playing in a foreign country, having spent a year in Belgium with Anderlecht in 1976, prior to his transfer to Everton in December of the same year. But he admits to being "staggered" that overseas players over here are complaining about conditions at

Pierre van Hooijdonk has been on strike at Nottingham Forest, Paolo Di Canio refused to return to Sheffield Wednesday because of "stress" and "depression" and the Blackhurn midfielder Sebastian Perez has said he wants to return to France because the cold weather is affecting his daughter's health.

But McKenzie feels that players should rise above such complaints and has sided with

the idea of foreign players saying they needed rest.

"It's all rubbish." McKenzie said. "This goes back to the days of Mirandinha at Newcastle. There have always been problems and you end up with some managers becoming xenophobic and not wanting any foreigners at all.

"Scandinavians are the one option because they are very similar to us anyway. "The foreign players are

seem to whinge an awful lot about the people who pay them.

"It staggers me the number of people who are playing and taking fortunes out of England, but are also saying everything about the place is wrong.

"I wouldn't have dreamed of living in Belgium and telling the Belgians and the people of Brussels that it wasn't a very nice place - the Belgian people don't do this and don't do that. That's bang out of order."

ture during his time in Belgium and says the foreign players he played with were made welcome by their team-mates and

Furthermore, he also believes the success Chelsea are currently enjoying can be attributed directly to their foreign players integrating well into the English community.

fans alike.

*Osvaldo Ardiles, Ricky Villa, Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren all came over bere don," McKenzie said.

cluh in Ware. Can you believe that? Golf is such a typical English game. George Graham is a member there as

"I believe the Chelsea lads also love the country because they have discovered golf, and the higgest problem Gianluca Vialli bas had is keeping them off the golf course."

But McKenzie appreciates

the country, where many clubs. "He is still a member of a golf like Middlesbrough, have struggled with foreign signings.

"One of the problems is down to Italians and Brazilians and their Latin temperament. If things aren't going their way they want their bell back," he

"I would urge our clubs to keep away from too many foreign signings, but they are cheaper than ours. It's the chicken and the egg situation, isn't it?"

act to rectify crisis

RUGBY UNION BY ANDREW BALDOCK

BATH YESTERDAY responded to their scrum-half injury crisis by signing Wasps' England in-ternational Andy Gomarsall on

Gomarsall, who won the last of his six caps against Argentina in 1997, will be available for Bath until 13 February, and is likely to be a replacement when Newcastle visit the Recreation Ground this weekend. Gomarsall, 24, has struggled to pin down a regular Wasps firstteam place this season, fighting a three-way battle alongside Mike Friday and Martyn Wood, while fading completely from the England picture.

Bath will welcome his arrival after seeing their promising young Welsh prospect Gareth Cooper join the casualty list. Cooper suffered a fractured eve socket during the Tetiey's Bitter Cup fourth round defeat hy Newcastle last Saturday. and now faces a four week layoff. Already on the sidelines are the Scottish international Andy Nicol, out for another month because of cruciate knee ligament damage, and the New Zealander Jon Preston (Achilles tendon), leaving the South African Steve Hatley as Bath's only fit scrum-half,

The ailing European cham-pions have lost seven of their last eight league and cup matches, and all hopes of domestic silverware will disappear for a third successive season unless they can somehow turn around an erratic Premiership campaign.

Fran Cotton is back in cooflict with the Rugby Football Union - this time over the proposed slimming-down of the administrative structure of the sport in England. The Lions manager and former England captain resigned as vice-chairman of the Management Board last April in protest at RFU policy. Now the new-look Union has come in for an ear-bashing from Cotton as The Reform Group, of which he is president, rejected the RFU's working party report on counties and the future of the Council and Management Board. "This document is dangerous," said Cotton, "As the report stands. it further removes democracy from the membership."

The report, prepared by RFU vice president and ex-England captain Budge Rogers, will recommend to a special meeting in March that administration below Twickenham beadquarters level should be carried out hy strengthening the constituent bodies (basically the 27 counties) who, as the RFU Council, would be responsible for policy.

Problems mount for Atkinson

NO SOONER has Ron Atkinson By TOMMY STANIFORTH begun the struggle to keep Nottingham Forest in the Premiership than the prob-lems begin to pile up for him.

The long-serving Forest oalkeeper Mark Crossley, frustrated by his lack of first-team opportunities in the past 18 months, gave Atkinson an ultimatum yesterday. The 29-yearold has been unable to dislodge Dave Beasant from the side and has warned that, if he does not figure in the Premiership soon, he will ask to leave.

"Tve got 18 months left on my contract," Crossley said. "At my age, it's no use playing reserve-team football."

Another problem for Atkinson is the doubt cast over his £1m hid for Carlton Palmer because of a wages wrangle. The Southampton midfielder has been lined up as the new manager's first signing, but the player and Forest have so far been unable to strike a deal.

"I can understand Forest's position, in a way," Palmer said. They seem to be caught between two stools - between really going for it to avoid relegation and hudgeting for been invited back by its chairyear in case they do go down. But I'm certainly not holding them to ransom."

Juninho has ruled out the possibility of an immediate had made about players and move to Aston Villa. The the PFA. "Certain individuals Brazilian international has been linked with a £12m move back to England with Villa Park rated as the likely desti-nation. However, the former Middlesbrough man has decided to try to establish himself in Spain, even though his career has not flourished since his move to Atletico Madrid in

Peters

"It is very difficult when you are not in the team," Juninho said. "But I would prefer to fight

and work and get back into the team and be a success in Spain rather than look for a move elsewhere.'

Leeds have taken the Slovenian defender Aleksander Knavs on a week's trial from the Austrian club, Tirol Innsbruck. However, the 6ft 3in 23-year-old may have played insufficient internationals for his country to earn a work permit.

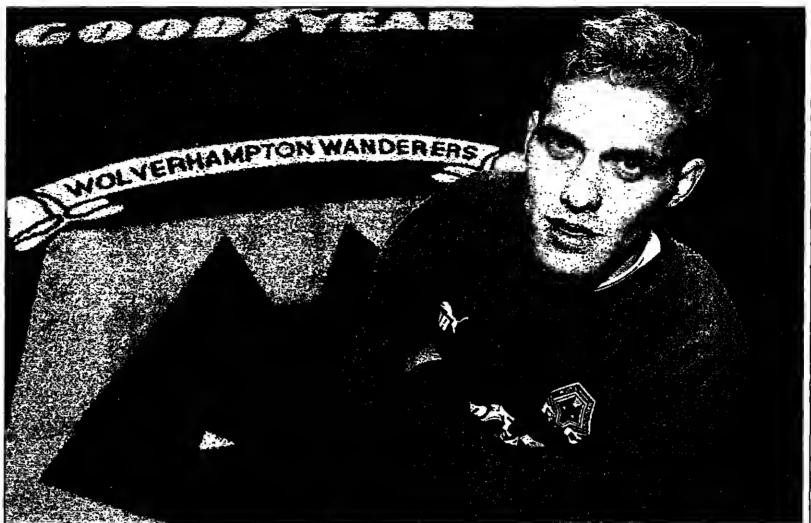
Wolves have completed the signing of the Norwegian World Cup striker Haavard Flo from the German Bundesliga club. Werder Bremen, for around £750,000.

The Everton manager, Walter Smith, is offering Graham Stuart a chance to return to Goodison Park. Smith is trying to sign the Sheffield United forward in exchange for the centre-half Craig Short, who is a surplus to requirements.

Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, was last night AS THE debate continues over be oversaw their rise to the Pre- a full-blown election campaign. to find a new chairman, but that in submitting plans for redeciding whether to return to the Football Task Force - despite the fact that he has not

Taylor resigned last week after criticising Mellor for remarks the former Tory MP on the Task Force have asked me to think about [returning]. I've appreciated them and given it some consideration, together with my colleagues at the PFA."

match against the United States national team at their winter training camp in Orlando, Florida, today. They will then meet the Brazilian side. Atletico Mineiro, on Sunday at the Orange Bowl in Miami.



Norwegian Wolf: Haavard Flo, the latest overseas signing at Wolverhampton Wanderers, arrives at Molineux yesterday

Stott lobbies for FA chairmanship

ball Association chairman, Ian Stott believes he could be the compromise candidate.

The former Oldham Athletic chairman believes he may have the "middle-of-the-road" appeal to win confidence in all camps. Stott, who this week resigned as chairman of the Latics, has become a career football administrator after selling up his business empire, which included interests in holiday homes and night-clubs.

After almost 14 years as a Rangers will play a practice councillor in the corridors of power at the FA, Stott knows a hit about survival and appeasement. He wants change at the FA, he wants it streamlined. but he still wants to retain its traditions. His 17 years as chairman of Oldham, in which

who will become the new Foot- miership under Joe Royle's I'm not going flat out to be level of the game.

However, Stott stood down as Oldham's chairman on Monday. He is now vice-chairman at Boundary Park under David Brierley, following an uproar over reports that Stott was behind a proposed merger of Oldham, Rochdale and Bury. Stott said that comments he

had made had been taken out of context and he had no option hut to resign. That decision leaves him with more time to lobby for the top FA post.

Stott said: "Now is the time to attack the situation at the FA. I would like to think that I would appeal to all sides. Now is the time for discussion. "I don't want this to look like

management, has earned him chairman, but I am certainly friends and admirers at every looking to become more involved at that level."

The 64-year-old, whose family used to be mill owners around Oldham, said: "I am interested in a position on the FA that would give me more involvement, but what that is at the moment I am not sure." Stott does not have the out-

spoken approach of another candidate, Ken Bates, hut he would want change. He said: "Maybe now is the right time to address the situation again."

Following Keith Wiseman's protracted departure. Stott has begun to put himself forward as a candidate for the middle ground. He said: "There was a time when it looked like there would be an immediate election

summer, so there is no great ur- ing out of the meeting in gency on that front at the mo- Plymouth because of the pettiment. It will now be in June and ness and arguing. that gives everyone a lot more time for discussion. "There are obvious candidates, Geoff Thompson, who is

now in charge, and David Sheepshanks, who I know well from the Football League, but he has only been an FA Councilior for a year or so.

"Of course, the chairman is elected every year, which I have always felt is a bit daft. It also means it is hard to get rid of someone mid-term." Stott, who lives in the

Cheshire stockbroker belt in Wilmslow, knows all about trying and failing to achieve change within the FA. He said: "Ten years ago I was involved

won't happen now until the structuring, and I recall walk-

number of councillors, to have a board of directors drawn from the committees who would have the power to decide things, and to have an age limit as well. There are things we should be addressing again, there must be change but you must always be wary of hurting peoples' feelings. You are asking people to vote away their positions, but these things have to be looked at.

"I'm looking for a happy medium, the middle ground. But we have to be able to speed up decision-making and have an elected body of, say, eight peo-ple on a board to run things."

Queen's Purk P Clackmacuddle SCOTTISH LEAGUE PIRST DIVISION

final: Postposed: Cliftonville v Disülery. NORTH WESTERN TRANS LEAGUE First Division: Postposed: Leek CSO2 v Cheade. Division: Postponed: Leek CSO3 v Cheake.
PONTINS LEASUR Premier Division: Postponed: Presson v Liverpool. Second Division: (oil matches postponed). Intell Division: (oil matches postponed). League Cap Group She
Postponed: Notes County v Bradford.
ANON MISURGACE COMMINATION PresDivision: Barner: 3 Fulham 4. Postponed:
Volation: Portsmouth v Norwich: Milwall v Ipswich,

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Cup Third-Round Replay: Yeovi Town 1 Carbit City 2 (act: Carbit cave) to Notes County or Shell (Hg), Anto Windscreens Sheled Northern Section Second round: Darlington 0 Chester-field 2: Sounthorpe O Carlisle 0 (Match aban-doned at holl-ome, frozen pitch) Secetish Langua First Divisions Hamilton O Cydebank

Prince's 147 break wasted

SNOOKER

JASON PRINCE has found century breaks hard to come by throughout his career but made spectacular amends with a 147 at Blackpool yesterday.

However, the maximum break was not enough to prevent the world No 39 suffering his ninth defeat in 10 matches this season. He lost 5-4 to Liverpool's Ian Brumby in the final qualifying round of the British Open in Blackpool.

Prince, who has recorded just 12 centuries in nine years as a professional, became the fifth player to compile a 147 and lose the match.

Brumby led 4-1 when Prince, from Yorkshire, who will be part of the Northern Ireland team at next week's Nations Cup in Newcastle, produced his break - the 25th maximum in the history of pro competition.

Prince's trickiest moment was the 14th red where he was forced to bridge awkwardly over the yellow. "That was probably the most important shot," he said. Full of confidence. Prince continued his comeback and claimed the next two frames before Brumby won the decider with a 68 break.

"I would definitely trade the 147 for a win. I've really got mixed feelings because although I'm obviously proud of the break I need ranking points a lot more at the moment." Prince said.

WORLD INDOOR SINGLES CHAM-PIONSHIP (Hopeon-oa-Sea, Nor-tolk), Pirst romat R Weale (Wal) bt O Le Marquand (Jersey) 6-7 7-0 7-1 0-7 7-2; N Booth (Irl) bt N Watkins (Can) 7-1 7-5 3-7 6-7 7-5; I Bond (Eng) bt J Wong (HK) 7-2 7-0 7-1; S Anderson (Aus) bt W W Wood (Sco) 7-4 7-4 1-7 1-7 7-5.

CYCLING Richard Virengue, who an-

nounced his retirement follow-ing the drug scandal which rocked the Tour of France last year, will race for the Italian team Polti in the upcoming season. Virenque was the top rid-er of the Festina team thrown out of the Tour for allegedly using banned substances. The 29-year-old Frenchman has deyear-old Frenchman has denied to have knowingly taken

FOOTBALL NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Rearranged fixtures: Two 9 Feb: Dar-ington v Carliste (from 10 Nov). Two 23 Feb: Bristol Rovers v Gillingham (from 26 Dec): Preston v Lincoln (from 2 Jan). Two 2 Mart: Darlington v Exeter (from 24 Oct)

24 Oct).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Rearranged flattures; The 19 Jan: Hardepool v Preston: Rochdale v Stoke; Scunthorpe v Carliste; Wigan v Scarborough (all from 12 Jan).

TODAY'S NUMBER

136

The number of decibels achieved by Leicester supporters against Chelsea making them the loudest fans in the Premiership this season. In second place are Leeds (133)

and Arsenal (132).

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 4; De-trolt 5 Montreal 1; Colorado 4 Chicago 1; Edmonton 2 Dallas 2 (ot). RALLVING

RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY 12th stage (Nema to Tichic, Masaritania): Cars: 1 J-L Schlesser (Fr) Schlesser 7th 9min 23sec; 2 J M Servia (Sp) Schlesser 3min S6sec behind; 3 K Shinozuka (Japan) Misubishi +7:29; 4 M Prieto (Sp) Mitsubishi +1:30; 5 T De Lavergne (Fr) Nissan +19:59; 6 H Masuoka (Japan) Misubishi +39:12; 7 J Kleinschmidt (Ger) Mitsubishi +46:16; 8 5 Servia (Sp) Nissan +50:02; 9 G Marcy (Bel) Nissan +50:02; 9 G Marcy (Bel) Nissan +54:23; 10 G De Mevius (Bel) Nissan +55:33. Overall: 1 Schlesser SShr 27min 34sec; 2 Prieto 20min 27sec behind; 3 Kleinschmidt +1hr 31min 40sec; 4 Shinozuka +2:10:42; 5 J M Servia +3:28:39; 6 Masuoka +4:03:40; 7 S Peterhansel (Fr) Nissan +4:50:17: 8 De Lavergne +5:41:40; 9 De Mevius +10:32:09; 10 S Servia 10:35:56. Moborcycles: 1 R Sainct (Fr) BMW 6tr 36min 11se; 2 F Meoni (It] KTM 1min 44sec behind; 3 oni (It) KTM 1min 44sec behind; 3 T Magnaldi (Fr) KTM +2:40; 4 G Sala (It) KTM +4:28; 5 K Tlainen (Fin) KTM +4:43; 6 A Cox (SA) KTM KTM +4:43; 6 A Cox (SA) KTM +5:46: 7 J Arcarons (Sp) KTM +10:56; 8 O Gallardo (Sp) 8MW +11:29; 91 Pujol (Sp) KTM +24:19; 10 J Brucy (Fr) 8MW +30:39. Oweralt: 1 Sainct 45hr Amin 17sec; 2 Magnaldi 4:41 behind; 3 Meoni +17:57; 4 Cox +24:46; 5 Tiainen +1:08:01; 6 Arcarons +:12:43; 7 C Sotelo (Sp) Yamaha +1:42:10; 8

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL PORTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Sunderland v Leeds Utd (7.0). LEAGUE CUP Group One: Newcastle v Middlesbrough (7.0), Group Three: West Bromanich v Manchester City (7.0) (or Hote-SOWEN TOWN FC). UNIBOND LEAGUE PI

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Greater London v Derby (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS BOWLS: World Indoor Singles Champ-lonships (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk). ionships (Hopton-on-Sea. Nertalk).
SNOONESE Qualifying for Regal Scottish
Open, British Open and World Champ-ionships (Nortareck Castle Hotel. Bitack-pool).

SPORTING DIGEST J Deacon (GB) KTM +2:30:49; 9 Sala +3:53:44; 10 C De Gavardo (Chile) KTM +4:31:12.

> Howard Morris was vesterday named as the new St Helens chairman after Tom Ellard stood down for health reasons. Ellard, who is staying on the board, took over as chairman from Eric Ashton just over a year ago.

RUGBY UNION Leicester have brought forward the kick-off time to 2.30pm for their next two home matches against Lon-don Scottish on Saturday and Gloucester a week later in an at-tempt to beat crowd and traffic

tempt to beat crowd and traffic problems with Leicester City who are also at home. POSTPONED: Welsh Challange Trophy Pool & Caerphilly v Edinburgh Reivers. Pool & Bridgend v Glasgow Caledonians. TUESDAY'S LATE REBULTS: Swalec Cap Fourth rounds Group B: Cross Krys 25 Dureant 14. Group B: Llandovery 12 Cardiff A). Welsh Challange Tophy Pool As Neath 18 Natal Wildebeest 36.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Methodram): Severate day: President of the IOC Capt 1 GB 38pts; 2 Aus 32; 3 Swe 27. Laser: Gold fleet final overall (after 12 races, 1 distant): 1 B Ausle 34pts; 2 R Scheidt (Br) 38; 3 K Sureson (Swe) 48pts. GB: 5 A Simpson 74; 23 M Barron 201; 32 M Untriejohn 235; 26 E Wicher 242: 42 I Tarier 377; 57 P sapis; 2 K Schedt (ar) 36; 3 h Saviesson (Swe) 48pts. 68b; 5 A Simpson 74;
23 M Barron 201; 32 M Urtlejohn 235;
36 E Winght 247; 43 1 Jaylor 307; 57 P
Goodlson 384, Europe (after 8 races,
1 discard); 1 5 Multale (Pn) 8pts; 2 M
Matthijsse (Neth) 9; 3 A Mason (NZ) 12.
GBs; 4 S Robertson 13; 45 0 Winstanley
67; 46 J Singleton 68pts; 70 N Multar 106.
Flast Gold Cup (after 8 races, 1 discard); 1 M Kusnierwicz (Po) 32pts; 2 F
Loof (Swe) 44; 3 K Kuret (Croa) 50, GBs;
4 I Percy 53pts; 13 0 Mellor 110; 31 J
Lea 198; 33 R Stembousz 201; 38 C Chumbley 232. 49er (after 11 races); 1 C
Nicholson and E Smyth (Aus) 14pcs; 2 A
Beashsi and T Casiowsid (Aus) 19; 33 and
C McKee (V5) 20, GBs; 10 T Robinson and
I Walker 33; 12 A and 1 Budgen 42; 13
P Arotherton and N McDonaid 42; 17 1
Barker and 0 Philips 47; 28 A Stead and
Z Elikot 66; 30 A Robardson and P Greenhalph 69; 63 G Farrant and 0 Johnson 119;
64 N Fitgerald and P Hargrawes 122; Sollag | after 4 races); 1 S Westergaard; (Den)
14pts; 2 J Schaltmann, G Baft; 1 Borkowski (Ger) 24; 3 R Heiner, P Van Niekerk, 0
De Ridder (Neth) 29, GB; 7 A
Beadsworth, R Sydenham, 2 Parkin 42;
20 L Smith, 0 Stewert, R Cruidshank 81,
Mee's 479 Gold Fleet (after 6 races);
1 2 Pett and J Francols Cuzon (Fr) 9pts;
2 E Braslavets and I Matvienko (Ukr) 24;
3 C Tomaz and M Mithig Sloven) 25, GB;
22 N Rogers and I Gian/leid 91.

SKIING ALPINE WORLD CIP JAdelboden

P Schnyder (Swit) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 6-4 4-6 6-4; L Davenport (US) bt M-J Fer-nandez (US) 6-4 7-5; S Graf (Ger) bt 5 Williams (US) 6-23-67-5; D Van Roost (Bel) bt A Kournikova (Rus) 6-1 6-2. bt A Kournikova (Rus) 6-1 6-2.

HERMENEN MEM'S OPEN (Anchiand)
Singles, second rowner O Hrbary (Slovak)
bt F Meligeni (Br) 7-6 7-5: A Povel (Rom)
bt F Vicente (Sp) 6-3 6-4: F Mantilla (Sp)
bt A Voines (Rom) 7-6 6-7 6-4: 5 Schalhen
(Nech) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-4: B
Steven (NZ) bt M Safin (Rus) 7-5 6-2: A
Martin (Sp) bt G Rooux (Fr) 7-6 5-7 7-6.

TASHANIAN INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Hobart)
Singles, second rounds J Hajard-Decugls

LEA hr F Brankang (Ukn) 6-3 6-4: 5

SNOOKER

S N O O K E R

SRITISH OPEN (Eliadippol) Pland quallight round (Big andess street): J Raid
to O O'Kane (NZ) 5-2: M Geudens (Bet)
to N Pearce 5-2: M Holt to O Taylor (N Irl)
5-2: O Fintow to 5 AB (Pak) 5-1; A Davies
(Hel) br O Gray 5-2; N Walker br G Greene
5-1: A Burden to T Chappel (Wal) 5-3: O
Hann (Aus) to N Terry 5-2: M Gray br P
Wykes 5-4: O Henry (Sco) br J Wallace 54. J Johnson br P Phondun (Thal) 5-4: B
Jones br S Judd 5-3: A Bolsower br M Davis
5-3: W Brown br J Fergyson 5-0: I Brumby br J Prince (N Irl) 5-4.

S U M O

NEW YEAR GRAND TOURNAMENT
(Pokyo): Third darp (of 15): Oginishid
(4-0) br Asanosho (2-2): Chipoteruan (4-0)
br Mitolurmi (2-2): Ganyu (3-1) br
Dewaarashi (1-3) by default; fochlinonada
(2-2) bt Kindeiyana (0-4): Shifeshima (3-1)
bt Wakanojo (1-3): Higonoumi (3-1) bt
Cojero (1-3): Tochlinovada (2-2) bt Kafho
(1-3): Terao [3-1) bt Minatofuli [1-3):
Kotoryu (2-2) bt Aoglyama (2-2): Delma (2-2) bt Toki (2-2): Musoyama (3-1)
bt Takatoriki (0-4): Tochlazuma (3-1) bt
Kotonoskio (2-2): Chlyotalia (4-0) bt
Koto (1-3): Tamakrsuga (1-3) bt
Kalo (1-3): Tamakrsuga (1-3) bt
Takanohana (1-3): Wakanohana (4-0) bt
Tosanoumi (1-3):

KOOYONG CLASSIC (McHoograe) Meer's singles, first round: A Agossi (US) br P Koras (C. Rep) 6-2 6-1; T Engvist (Swe) bt G kantsevit (Croa) 7-6 7-8; M Philippoessis (Aus) br T Herman (GS) 2-5 6-4 6-4; M Chang (USA) br Y Katefnikov (Rus) 6-7 6-3 7-5.

(Rus) 6-7 6-3 7-5.

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL (Aus)
Men's singles, second round: G Kuerten
(Bra) bt 7 Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4 6-0; L
Hernit (Aus) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4 6-0; L
Hernit (Aus) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4 6-2;
A Costa (Spa) 6-1-4 Gambili (USA) 6-3
7-5; A Correija (Sp) bt M Rosset (Smt)
6-6-3 7-6; K Kucera (Slovak) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4 6-0; J Stotlenberg (Aus) bt
R Kräjcek (Neth) 6-3 6-4; T Muster (Aut)
bt C Moya (Sp) 7-6 6-4; T Muster (Aut)
bt C Moya (Sp) 7-6 7-5. Mormanis
singles, second rounds V Williams (US)
bt A Coetter (SA) 7-6 6-2; A SanchezVicario (Sp) bt A Huber (Ger) 2-6 6-3 6-2;

Singles, second round: J Halard-Decugls (Fr) bt & Tacarkova (Ukr) 6-3 6-4; Ftchowski (Fr) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-2 46 6-1; C Black (Zim) bt L Fang (China) 6-

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Venables on his way out at Palace

TERRY VENABLES was on the verge of parting company with Crystal Palace last night after talks with his chairman, Mark Goldberg. If Venables goes, Palace are expected to offer the manager's position to Steve Coppell, who has filled the job on two previous occasions and is currently the club's director

The imminent break with Venables is believed to be a direct result of Palace's worsening financial situation, although Goldberg has also expressed his unhappiness with the team's performances. Palace have played poorly in recent weeks and are now languishing in the bottom half of the First Division.

Venables is expected to leave as soon as negotiations about a final severance payment are completed. The former England coach agreed a deal believed to be worth £750,000 a year when he accepted Goldberg's offer last June, shortly after the Palace owner took control of the club. The pay-off may now be the subject of some acrimonious debate as money is in short supply at Palace.

The club said in a statement last night: "Mark Goldberg is having discussions with Terry Venables at the present time. These discussions are as amicable as they can be. The situation will be resolved mutually and an official statement on the matter will be made with-

in the next 48 hours." Venables believes he has sources to rebuild the club and said on Sunday that he was surprised by the timing of last week's sale of Paul Warhurst to Bolton for £800,000 (Warhurst played for Bolton against Palace in a 3-0 defeat for the London side on Sunday). He is also unhappy with the prospective sale of Matt Jansen,

Palace's highly rated striker. Jansen is likely to be sold within the next fortnight, for

BY NICK HARRIS AND ALAN NEXON

around £5m, but it is understood that Newcastle, who had been favourites to secure his signature until now, may lose out to another Premiership side, pos-

sibly Aston Villa or Tottenham. Countering complaints about a lack of transfer funds, Goldberg has pointed out that Venables has brought in 13 players in his brief reign. However, despite the £1.3m purchase of two Chinamen, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai, and the recruitment of Lee Bradbury



Coppell: May take control

(£1.5m from Manchester City), and Craig Moore and Gordan Petric (£800,000 and £300,000 from Rangers), Palace's results have not improved.

When Venables goes, his ascertain to follow him. Goldberg is then expected to offer Fenwick's job to John Cartwright, who returned to Palace last year to run the club's football academy. Cartwright managed Palace's highly successful youth team of the late 1970s, when, ironically. Venables was firstteam manager and Fenwick played in Cartwright's side.

Coppell has managed Palace twice hefore. His first spell

ended when he resigned following Palace's relegation from the Premiership in 1993. He returned briefly as technical director two years later and again when he replaced Dave Bassett following his departure for Not-

tingham Forest two years ago. Coppell promptly led Palace to promotion, but was moved into his present role following a run of poor results in mid-sea-son. Attilio Lombardo took over as caretaker player-manager but was unable to halt the slide towards relegation.

In the past Coppell has said that he regards himself as "a Palace man", but it remains to be seen whether he would step into the breach this time. He was unhappy with the way he was moved aside last year and may feel that he would have too much to lose if he became manager. Whoever takes charge could face the prospect of fighting a relegation battle and having to sell players. Goldberg had difficulty rais-

ing the funds to complete his takeover of the club from Ron Noades last summer. Palace are understood to owe £1m to Noades, who is also owed a further £4.5m by Goldberg in loans - due to he repaid in June 2003 -arising from the deal. Goldberg and Noades yesterday agreed to to relax Palace's payment terms to help the club over their cur-

rent financial difficulties. Goldberg is also being sued by his solicitors, S J Berwin, for more than £400,000 in costs

Goldberg is also in talks with Jim McAvoy, who took over as Palace's chief executive last October in an effort to sort out the club's various business difficulties. McAvoy said: "I make no pretence about my disquiet regarding the decisions he is currently making at the club. I expect to make a more detailed statement within the next 48 hours."

Terry Venables (left) and assistant Terry Fenwick during their last match in charge of Palace, Sunday's defeat by Bolton Harry McGuine.

United make Roa top target

MANCHESTER UNITED are to BY ALAN NIXON make a £6m move to sign the Argentinian international goal-

United's manager, Alex Ferguson, has decided that the South American, whose form has been one of the principal factors behind Real Mallorca's unexpected challenge for the Spanish title, is the man for the job of replacing the Dane.

Ferguson was impressed with Roa in the World Cup finals, when he became a national hero for saving David Batty's penalty and putting

England out of the competition. matches for the past couple of months since Schmeichel announced his retirement and every report has been good.

Ferguson's brother Martin. the club's chief European scout, also saw Roa in top form as Mallorca beat Real Madrid last weekend to continue their challenge for the championship. Contact has now been made with Roa's agents and

summer move for the 28-yearold goalkeeper.

keeper Carlos Roa to fill Peter United's scouts have been reg- and United are willing to wait boost Schmeichel. His form mestic honours and the European Cup-Winners' Cup, in which they are in the last eight along with Chelsea. However, a deal should go through in the summer. Roa would need to apply for a work permit, but as Argentina's regular No 1 that should be no problem.

Roa is big, brave and athletic. His age is ideal for a goalkeeper and he would play his peak with the Spanish club about a years at Old Trafford. The only

Ferguson thought about signing a new goalkeeper sooner rather than later.

Schmeichel may be rested for United's trip to Leicester on Saturday. He returned to Old Trafford this week after his holiday in Barbados, and Ferguson has hinted that he may continue with his second-choice goalkeeper Raimond van der

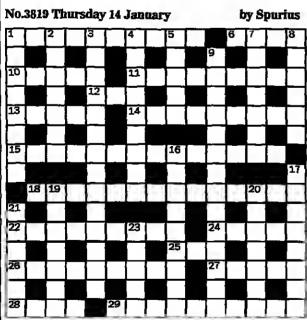
Gouw, at Filbert Street. Ferguson intends to check if

drawback is that he speaks lit- Schmeichel is physically and tle English. News that he is mentally right to return. The Mallorca will not sell now - United's choice might also manager claimed after Sunday's victory over West Ham World Cup men were over, but be may allow the Dane another match off.

"We will wait and see," said Ferguson. "We will see how much Peter has enjoyed himself while be was away."

United have let their 21year-old Norwegian striker Erik Nevland join the Swedish club, IFK Gothenburg, on loan for the Scandinavian summer

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS Lambeth resident. States monarch to be one guilty of exploitation 24

10 Church vessel used for ury product? (5) 11 Nobody's seen just after arriving at hospital de-partment - it's in New

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Chinese, for instance, are behind France ini-



item? Care needed (7) Philosopher's work bearing fruit in Central American country? (6,8) Abrasive agent appears upset when crossing central London (9)

Declare woman's taken off a little weight (5) Beverage brewed in NE first (7) Capital, a hot and dry

They'll enclose a quotation, as a rule (8.6) Act as arbitrator in plant, then give up (9) Bones in knee lots the worse for wear (8) Compete, and succeed -

good television (7) Well-developed men fail to excite (7) Agents importing pri-marily cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg? (6) Volunteers to escort a soldier climbing in forSIR BOBBY CHARLTON last BY ANDREW WARSHAW in Cannes

Germans are afraid

night accused his old adversary Franz Beckenbauer of trying to score political points in a bid to undermine England's hid to secure the vote to stage the 2006 World Cup. Beckenbauer has once again

raised the issue of the so-called 'gentleman's agreement" in which England are alleged to have promised their support to Germany if, in return, that country backed the Euro 96 campaign. "He keeps going on about it and he should forget it." Sir Bobby said. "It's taken a lot

of time arguing the case." Speaking at the Football Expo trade fair in Cannes, Sir Bobby also declared that England's World Cup 2006 rivals were "afraid" of the English bid. "We have no divine right [to stage the tournament]," said Sir Bobby, "but what we have are safe grounds, no fences, and no major police presence."

Despite having staged Euro 96, he stressed, England had not hosted the world's premier football competition since 1966, when he and his team-mates won the tournament. "I hear things from our rivals, from Germany and South Africa, about why the World Cup should not come to England." said Sir Bobby. "But the one thing that is consistent is that every time a statement comes out from one of our competitors about the World Cup, they invariably mention England, Why is that? It is because they are afraid of us. They respect the strength of our bid for the

things that we can offer." Sir Geoff Hurst, the hat-trick

of us, says Sir Bobby final and the English campaign

team's other leading ambassador, welcomed the sale of Wembley stadium and said the rebuilding of it would be a key milestone in the campaign. "Wembley is one of the cornerstones of our very strong bid," Sir Geoff told an informal press conference. "The latest news is marvellous."

He also expressed complete confidence that the recent resignations of the Football Association chairman. Keith Wiseman, and the chief executive, Graham Kelly, would have no bearing whatsoever on the English bid. "The bid is not about one or two personalities," he said. "It's about a strong team making a bid for the country as a whole. I see it as a small hump on a long, tough road. We've almost forgotten about it already."

Sir Bobby agreed. "It does not affect the bid one iota in the context of the world and that's the opinion of the Fifs (world governing body]delegates who matter," he said.

Beckenbauer, who is also in Cannes promoting the German bid, agreed it was time to stop invoking the gentleman's agreement, brokered by Sir Bert Millichip and Uefa officials when Millichio was in charge of the FA. "The English have a new leadership and it is all in the past now," Beckenbauer said. The president of the German campaign team had earlier said he was surprised that the English FA continued to try hero of the 1966 World Cup to ignore the accord that was question is, is Africa ready?"

Uefa, the European governing body. "We did not count on the candidature of the English." said Beckenbauer, Germany's former World Cup captain and manager. "We supported England to get the European Championship in 1996 so we expected support from them for the World Cup. We were a little

disappointed." Beckenbauer was phoographed alongside Sir Bobby, his rival ambassador in the English camp. He said the two remained good friends despite their respective tasks in the race to stage the 2006 tournament. "The last time I saw Bobby was at the Manchester United-Bayern Munich game." Beckenbauer said, "We often meet. I like him very much. He's doing his job and I'm doing mine which is how it should be."

Beckenbauer, respected throughout the game, was magnanimous when it came to England's qualifications to stage the World Cup. "In my opinion, England and Germany has an equal chance," he said. "We, like them, can offer everything. I can't say which is the best because ultimately it's not up to me. It's for the Fifa executive committee to decide.

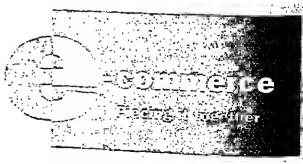
Beckenbauer hinted strongly, however, that South Africa was still the favourite provided they could persuade Fifa they could provide a sophisticated enough infrastructure, something the English campaign team severely doubts.

The next logical step is for the World Cup to go to South Africa," Beckenbauer said. "The



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THURSDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Sex on a stalk

BY ANNA PAVORD

It earned its place in history by sending an entire country mad. And the tulip remains 'the most seductive, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth'

ulipomania is supposed to have died with the great crash in Amsterdam in 1637, when the state finally intervened to bring to an end three years of frenzied trading in the flower. That, anyway, is what historians tell us. But they are wrong. Tulip madness is still irresistibly with us. I know, because I'm a demented slave to the flower myself, and I'm not alone. In Australia, Japan and the US, in Chile, South Africa and New Zealand, in France, Italy and the Netherlands, tulip growers are falling over themselves to keep up with demand for this extraordinary flower, the sexiest, the most capricious, the most various, subtle, powerful and intriguing flower that has ever grown on earth.

9 · 14 ·

It has had an adventurous life, full of more real dramas than any Hollywood screenwriter would ever dare to invent. Holland was the setting for one of its strangest escapades; the craze for tulips that raged there between 1634 and 1637 has puzzled historians ever since. How was it possible that at the height of the fever, one bulb of the tulip 'Admiral van Enkhuijsen' could sell for the equivalent of 15 years' wages for the average Amsterdam bricklayer?

It was partly a matter of timing. The Dutch East India Company had been set up in 1602 and this, combined with Amsterdam's increasing importance as a port, marked the beginning of an era of great prosperity for the Dutch. Merchants got rich and, in their wake, lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and jewellers too. The tulip, only recently introduced from the East, became the ultimate status symbol, the definitive emblem of how much you were worth. In the 1980s, the city trader's Porsche performed the same function, though in a cruder way.

And the flower itself had a unique trick that added dangerously to its other attractions. It could change colour, seemingly at will. A plain red tulip might emerge the following spring in a completely different guise, the petals feathered and flamed in intricate patterns of white and deep red. Though tulip lovers of the time did not know it, these "breaks" were caused by a virus, spread by aphids, but the research providing the answer to a mystery that intrigued and ensmared tulip growers for centuries was carried out only in the late 1920s.

The very concept of a "virus" was not understood in the modern sense until the 1880s. And only the

scope in the late 1920s gave researchers the necessary means to unravel its true nature. Early growers had a thousand theories on the best way to bring about the magic hreak. Some, taking their cue from contemporary alchemists, laid powdered paint on their tulip beds, expecting the colours miraculously to affect the flowers. It was no stranger than the alchemists' own attempts to turn base metal into gold. In fact it was rather better, for while the alchemists consistently failed in their endeavours, the tulip growers occasionally succeeded. They just did not know

advent of the electron micro-

Connoisseurs throughout Europe (and in the Ottoman Empire) had always rated "broken" flowers more highly than plain-coloured ones. For that reason, the broken flowers were the ones that commanded outrageous prices. But the virus was the joker in the tulip bed. Because its cause was not known, its effects could not be controlled. Virus-weakened tulips did not produce offsets as freely and vigorously as virus-free bulbs. Fine broken varieties such as 'Semper Augustus' were slow to increase and that, too, increased their value.

Those who could not afford the tulips themselves commissioned artists such as Ambrosius Bosschaert and Balthasar van der Ast to paint them. Even the grand master of Dutch flower painting, Jan van Huysum, could rarely command more than 5,000 guilders for a painting. But a single bulb of the tulip 'Admiral Lieffkens' changed hands for 4,400 guilders at a bulb auction in Alkmaar on 5 February 1637. So the

priceless flower paintings we now ogle in the National Gallery are there only because some poor sap in Amsterdam could oot afford the real thing.

Across the North Sea, England was not immune.

Uoder the Stuarts, for instance, this country witnessed two civil wars, a regicide, a republic, a restoration and a revolution in breathless succession. But what was the gardener and staunch royalist Sir Thomas Hanmer (1612-1678) of Bettisfield, in Flintshire, doing during this time? With one hand he was levying 200 supporters of the king to help him defend his patch in north Wales. With the other he was sending tulips to John Lambert (1619-1683), one of Cromwell's generals. Lambert, like Hanmer a besotted tulip fancier, lived at Wimbledon Manor. For his garden, Hanmer sent him "a very great mother-root of Agate Hanmer", one of his best tulips, coloured greyish-purple, deep scarlet and white.

Throughout the cataclysmic events of 17thcentury England - the comings and goings of kings and Protectors, the Gunpowder Piot, the plague, the Great Fire of London - the tulip reigned, untoppled, oo its flowery throne. It was the most sought after. most precious plant of the 17th-century garden, the flower of the age. This was not just in Britain. The tulip ruled all Europe, holding sway in the Bavarian gardens of the Prince Bishops at Wurzburg and at Nymphenburg, the summer residence of the Electors; in the parterres at Schönbrunn, in the Hapsburg palace in Vienna; in the Mirabelle Gardens originally built for Archbishop Dietrich outside the city walls of Salzburg; at Saint Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine in France, where the Duc d'Orleans, brother of Louis XIV, employed the fine painter Nicolas Robert to record his fabulous collection of tulips.

Tulips, too. mapped the movements of many of those persecuted for their religious beliefs. Like messages written in invisible ink, tulips emerged slowly in the new grounds that Flemish and French refugees were forced to seek in the wake of Philip II's Catholic crusades.

In the second half of the 16th century, these Protestant Huguenots most probably brought the tulip into England from Flanders. Long before the Dutch cornered the market, this was the most important centre of tulip breeding in Europe. Some settled in Norwich. Others, such as the Flemish botanist Lobelius, settled around Lime Street in the City of London, Huguenot refugees brought the tulip into Ireland, too, where the Dublin Florists' Soci-

ety was founded in 1746 by officers in the Huguenot regiments that had fought for Prince William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne.

in the closest manner with the requirements of manufacturing industry". Paintings by artists of the Manchester School covered the walls of Barlow's house.

In Michigan, tulips arrived with a later wave of early-19th-century Dutch immigrants, members of the Dutch Reformed Church, persecuted by King Willem I. Under their leader, the Rev van Raalte, they quickly colonised Michigan's plains, establishing a regular demand for European plants. The demand was bravely met by a new kind of tulip entrepreneur, the travelling salesman. The Dutchman J B van der Schoot (1825-1878) spent six mooths in 1849 travelling through the US taking orders for tulip bulbs.

But, for me, the only tulipomania that matters is the one that rages around the English florists' tulips, the most beautiful tulips in the world. These were bred, for the most part, by 19th-century eothusiasts such as the Rev William Wood, a Unitarian minister at the Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds; Tom Storer of Derby, railwayman and tulip maniac who, lacking any garden, grew his tulips along Derbyshire's railway embankments; John Slater of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, who bred the supremely elegant, feathered red-and-white 'Julia Farnese'; and Sam Barlow, whose life as apprentice, manager and, finally, proprietor of the Stakehill Bleach Works at Castletoo could have provided the entire plot of an Arnold Bennett novel. They were all florists in the original sense of the word, devoting themselves single-mindedly to the culture of a particular flower, developing it by their own breeding to conform to a tightly laid down set of rules, and showing it in sometimes viciously cootested competitions.

A Lancashire man, Barlow was born in Medlock Vale, the soo of "one of that band of earnest and enthusiastic working men botanists who have done so much to create a love of beauty and sweetness in the too frequently unlovely life of the Lancashire manufacturing districts". (Gardeners' Chronicle, April 1883) When his father died, Barlow, aged 39, was made manager of the Stakehill bleach works.

Just six years later, he became

its owner:
In its day, Stakehill was regarded as a perfect example of the way in which "high culture and exquisite taste can be associated

m the closest manner with the requirements of manufacturing industry". Paintings by artists of the Manchester School covered the walls of Barlow's house. More daringly, he also acquired one of the first Impressionist pictures to be bought by an English collector: A Village Street, Louveciennes, painted in 1871 by Camille Pissarro. Cabinets overflowed with "ceramic curiosities". Outside, wagonloads of soil were hrought by railway from a plot Sam Barlow owned at Great Ormes Head, Llandudno, to replace the poisoned earth of the neighbourhood. Here Barlow built up the biggest collection of English florists' tulips that anyooe had ever seen.

He spared no expense on his hobby and very much poorer florists such as David Jackson, a silk weaver living at Middleton, benefited. Barlow had set his heart oo acquiring a tulip bred by Jackson around 1865 and named after his wife. It was a strikingly fine flower, with white petals heavily feathered in glossy black. He wanted, of course, the whole stock of the variety, so that nobody else could say they had it, and offered Jackson the weight of the bulbs in gold. He ended up paying even more but, as the Scottish florist James Douglas said at the time, "they are weak in the head about Manchester".

On 28 May 1893, Barlow, the man who "created a floral paradise amid a forest of chimney shafts", died after falling down the stairs of his Manchester warehouse. Fittingly, his name lives on in a tulip, raised by a fellow florist, the railwayman Tom

Storer The flames licking the petals of Sam Barlow's gold-and-scarlet flower commemorate the heartbreaking devotion of generations of past florists. Of the hundreds of tulip societies that once existed in this country, only the Wakefield Tulip Society in Yorkshire remains. In the petals of the exquisite, rare tulips still exhibited in competition each year by the Wakefield florists, runs the blood of flowers first grown by John Evelyn and John Rea in the 17th century. This is the tulipomania that matters.

Anna Pavord writes on gardening every Saturday in 'The Independent'. To order her book, 'The Tulip' (Bloomsbury) at the special price of £25 (p&p , extra), call 01634 298 036 quoting the reference '25 tulip'

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NHS in crisis

Sir. '10 say that Florence Nightingale would be shocked and saddened were she to return to a present-day hospital ward would be an understatement.

During the century after she founded the nursing profession as we knew it, to be a nurse was a source of pride and fulfilment. The "old fashioned" ward sister knew and cared about every patient on her ward, knew, taught and counselled each nurse under her, organised and managed her team from senior doctor to lowly cleaner and was a mother figure to all on her ward. She was the respected and esteemed team leader who knew how to get the best out of her staff. A manager in mufti with a clipboard can never command the same qualities.

To work on a well-organised ward with a good sister was a pleasure, very hard work but fulfilling as one felt valued by the patients, the team and society. What we earned was less important. ANN PUGH

Sir: The "flu crisis" has led to another staff shortage in the NHS. This will no doubt give way to another round of pay claims, the most eagerly highlighted by the media being that from nurses.

Could I shock you by saying that hour for hour a junior doctor earns roughly the same as a nurse? They only earn the "fortune" perceived because they work such long hours because there aren't enough doctors.

tt is the whole work force of the NHS that counts. Nurses, doctors. porters, cleaners and even (reluctantly) managers. Without them the NHS is doomed, so all reasonable pay demands must be

However before April we will be toid that public funds will not stretch, and then the public and the politicians will have a choice. Do we want taxes to remain as low as they are, or do we want a health service that is full of well-motivated, welltrained and physically and mentally alert staff? Because we can't have

You get what you pay for Dr.C.COLE Queen Alexandra Hospital Cosham. Hampshire

Sir. We shall enter the new milliennium as we leave this one with public health care in crisis. Not because of finite resources but because health, like housing and education, is a poor competitor when compared with the "essentials" of society such as advertising, weapons and banking.

This absurdity is a consequence of running society in the interests of the wealthy. Governments cannot withstand the rich as they move tistic investments to the profitable areas of the globe. Hence countries compete for investment by offering low wages, low taxation and poor social welfare.

If we wish to institute social healti: we must remove power from the rich Then we can set humane unonties. LIC EEST

Lancaster

Sir. Do not be fooled by the Victorian laçade at our Cheisea site As you say, the Royal Morsden is a world renowned centre o We must pay up to prevent the decline of our health service 1,6 January). We coal developmentain our reputation at the breiront of cancer care. treatment and research if we did

not my est in buildings and facilities In the past seven years nearly them has been spent on new wards. operation; theatres, treatment and discreptic tacibles. For example, we opened a new clinical block in 1900 and our purpose designed. chadren's unit opened in 1993; a diagnostic imaging department and breast diagnostic unit opened in 17 6. a fully integrated haemato encology unit in 1997 and a mumbilitation unit with a whole rance of facilities for patients. Total crinic from cancer treatment

Vi are designed to be accessible. en aweil organised for patients and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Signs of God No 4: A signed conversation takes place in the vestry of St Mary of the Angels, Cardiff, which serves a well-organised community of

accommodating to oew clinical practices and the latest medical technology. Our expertise in radiotherapy, for instance, is recognised by an ISO (International Standards Organisation) 9001 quality standard. We are continuing to invest in the fabric of the hospital for the sake both of patients receiving care and of staff delivering it. **TESSAGREEN** Chairman Royal Marsden NHS Trust London SW3

Sir: Jeremy Laurance highlights an issue with which I am all too familiar ("Cash shortage keeps woman in hospital for 10 months". 12 January). There are two fundamental problems - the division between health and social

services and chronic underfunding. Responsibility for older people's health and social care should be vested in a single community care authority to ensure that older people receive services which meet their individual needs.

Age Concern receives many calls where health authorities and local authorities say that they cannot foot the hill for nursing home care. This situation could become more critical in the light of the recent High Court decision which firmly places the sole responsibility of all nursing care on the NHS. The Government needs to issue guidance on this as soon as possible to ensure that the rights of people like Nellie O'Reardon are clear and that they are not left waiting for funding. Older people who need residential care now cannot afford to wait for new policies which might take years to implement. SALLY GREENGROSS Director General Age Concern: London SW16

Public and private

Ser. The Robin Cook saga has again posed the question, "Is a person's private behaviour relevant to their public performance?" Of those who claim

that episodes of human fallibility in private are proof of hitherto undiscovered public inadequacies lask for evidence, for the reverse is often the case

The world of politics is littered with people whose private inadequacies would initially lead one to think them incapable of their public roles, but they seemed to cope. Churchill's fondness for a dram didn't prevent him leading the nation through the Second World War, Lloyd George's predilection for the opposite sex didn't prevent him leading the country and at least one ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer has had some difficulty remembering to pay his Visa bill.

Conversely, wasn't Adolf Hitler outedly very good with children? LAWRENCE ROBERTS Winterton, Lincolnshire

Sir. The view is being expressed, in support of Mrs Cook's revelations concerning her husband, that the burniliation suffered at his hands justifies her actions. However, in cases of domestie violence, it is said, quite rightly, that there is no provocation which would ever

Sir: Hamish McRae asks why

("Corruption's bad for your

answer that we are all more

than to cheating our own?

Sir. With reference to your

nrticle on the BT Newcastle

as expected. "A city that is

struggling to leave the 19th

Newcastle is one of the most

vibrant cities in the country.

2 January), your comments on

Newcastle were as predictable

call centre (Magazine,

[century]" - get a life:

to a minimum

Durham

RS MUSGRAVE

wealth", 12 January). Isn't the

prone to cheating members of

a different tribe/family/conntry

The moral: keep the EU hudget

constituent countries

the EU is more corrupt than its

justify a husband striking his wife. How therefore, is it possible to justify Mrs Cook's actions? It seems to me that Mr Cook has been duffed up in a quite frightening manner. PGORDON Bournemouth, Dorset

Fluoride 'choice'

Sir: Pamela Taylor tletter, 12 January) argues that the water industry's proposals offer choice over whether to fluoridate supplies. I would be interested to hear what choice I have as a consumer if I wish to avoid Imbibing excess fluoride in my democratically fluoridated water. Pay my water rates and buy bottled water, presumably,

The one method of preventing dental caries that bas no malign side-effects, is more effective than any other method, and actually saves money, is reducing intake of refined sugar in all its forms. Of course, there's no profit in it. Or am I being cynical? **CHARLES HARRIS** London NW3

IN BRIEF

"£16,000 per year ... is as good

as it gets in a depressed post-

industrial town" - well, I'm an

ordinary working person and I

earn far more than that, as do

most of my associates.

Chester-le-Street, Durham

Sir: Elizabeth Stuart (letter.

of the Christ event lies not in

what Jesus did but in who he

was. It is this kind of theology-

teachings of Jesus in favour of

making fantastical claims for

things invisible - which has

allowed the churches for

centuries to ignore the

falling out over esoteric

metaphysical speculation

12 January) says that the point

PHIL DENT

Sir: Ninety-eight per cent of Europeans do not consume drinking water to which fluoride has been added. The 2 per cent are, almost exclusively, in the British Isles. There are no "communities wanting fluoridation" (letter, 12 January). PAT RATTIGAN

Virgin's price

Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Sir: I feel compelled to correct the impression that you gave in your two articles on Virgin Radio (12

Perhaps uniquely among the major British radio stations the management (as opposed to the shareholders) of Virgin Radio has remained unchanged over the last

On 6 May 1997 Virgin and Capital announced that they had entered into an agreement to sell Virgin Radio for £85m. Virgin did not sell its radio station for a materially different consideration to Ginger Even after a deduction for Virgin's investment in Ginger, the cash proceeds from the transaction were well in excess of

about his identity. Jesus in the

sky is safe and useful for

both feet planted on the

way back when

MICHAEL WRIST

Ely, Cambridgeshire

shoring up the claims of the

churches; Jesus the man with

ground is as dangerous to the

establishment today as he was

Sir: Could the designers of

breathalyser kit? I fully

motor cars be encouraged to

include as a fixture a personal

recognise the "Don't drink and

drive" advice, but people still

opportunity at hand to check

taking the wheel might be a

take risks, and to have the

one's alcohol level before

useful warning. Mrs PRUE SKINNER

KENNETH IBBETT Chief Executive Virgin Media Group

invest over £10m.

London W1

£50m, and not £16m as you have

There was no need for an

amazing "turn-around" to reach

the announced profits in October

because the company had been

generating operating profits for

Branson and Virgin Interests had

the two prior years. Richard

never consequently needed to

suggested.

Islam hijacked

Sir: As an older Muslim, it saddens me and many of my generation to observe Islam being hijacked by men like Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, reduced m spirituality and then used as a political tool of violence, all which is having a negative effect on impressionable younger Muslims and on how Islam is perceived in

Many Muslims protested for an end to the recent bombing of Iraq before the start of our holy month of Ramadan; to have continued would have been viewed as an outrage against Islam, But what about the outrages committed by Muslims during Ramadan? The murder of innocent hostages in Yemen as well as the planned bombings, the provocative and destructive rantings and rhetoric of Saddam Hussein, a call to all "good" Muslims to go and kill an American or British citizen by Osama bin Laden - are these not

worse? I would ask my younger Muslim brothers and sisters who support and demonstrate for Saddam Hussein how long they would continue to rally behind him if they had to live under his oppressive hand. Let us not allow the greatness and beauty of Islam to enter its Dark Ages, to lose its humanity and spirituality and become equated with terrorism, Dr ABDUL KARIM

Sex before the Pill

Sir: Deborah Orr writes that "sexual liberation ... began with the advent of the oral contraceptive" ("The myth of sexual freedom", 8 January).

I am now 81 and before I was 20 I had some happy love affairs. This was before the Second World War and long before the advent of the Pill I had to be very careful about contraception and used a cap, which didn't bother me or my lovers. As I did not at that age want to have a baby, I did not consider a lover as a potential father and felt wholly responsible for not allowing him to be.

If a woman does not want a baby she can prevent it unless she is careless or very unlucky. She herself can be in control of this very important issue and I cannot see why she should want to share her control with a man, unless she wants to have his baby, in which case they should discuss it.

I would prefer to remain anonymous for the sake of my children and grandchildren. NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Sir: The underlying premise of K Haggett's diatribe about the supposed immorality of pregnancy outside marriage (letter, 11 January) is wholly false. Throughout almost the whole of human history, and in much of the Third World today, infant mortality rates have been so high that the fear has been of failing to rear an adult successor, not of having more children than one could support. It has repeatedly been demonstrated that, regardless of the introduction of effective contraception, fertility rates do not begin to fall until there has been a sustained reduction in infant mortality.

In Britain, until the introduction of welfare support for the elderly, a barren marriage, with no children to care for parents in old age, was a dreaded prospect. There are many alive today who can remember when to become too old to work meant entry to the workhouse if there was no family support. To allay such fears, it was common practice for a marriage not to be finalised until the bride-to-be was pregnant. If pregnancy failed to occur within a decent time the betrothal was dissolved without recrimination and both parties

were free to seek a new partner. Young people should be discouraged from promiscuity on compelling health grounds and because it is corrosive to self-respect. To go beyond this in a return to oppressive, hypocritical pseudo-morality would benefit no one.
KENNETH CAMPBELL Kettering, Northamptonshire

Pupils' progress

Sir: Far from being unlikely to deliver our pledge to reduce infant class sizes to 30 or below by the next election (leading article, 9 January). we have already made substantial progress and we expect that most schools will meet that pledge by September 2000, over a year ahead of schedule, with the remainder doing so by September 2001. More than 100,000 infants are

aiready in smaller classes as a result of money invested in teachers and classrooms. We have already allocated £67m and over the next three years we will allocate a further £560m to meet the pledge in full. ESTELLE MORRIS Minister of State Department for Education and

Man of the years

Sir: Please thank Nicolas Walter (letter, 12 January) for coming to the defence of Dionysius Exiguus in the discussion about the millennium and the Year Zero. It would be terrible to go down in history as Dennis the Short Who was short PETER GALE Ramsey. Isle of Man

A meeting of monarchs on the sea coast of Pretoria

HERE'S THE latest instalment of the rediscovered Shake-pearean saga, The History of King Tong or New Labour's Lost, Lore, King Tony and facen Cherie have flown to South Africa to meet the Nelson Mandeia, who was cruelly imprisoned and held from his inheritance for so long by the wicked Regent, Prince W Botha.

An airport, South Africa, King Tony emerges from the agreenst, followed by pertibliers, backs, metho inchesis and sundry hangers on. There comes to meet them King News Mandels of South Africa, restrictions extremely

King Nelson: Welcome, King Tony thrice welcome to our shores' Although you English have o'ercome our men, And beaten us in bloody learful combat.

King Tour. Victory in hattle? This comes as news abude off Mandelson were here, he'd know the

Alas! He shall advise me nevermore!

S. I I forgive your proness on the field.

A new spaper hack steps forward from the crowd. Hack: Your Majesty, I think the King refers To curtain cricket matches played last year In which the English beat the Springbok side, Nelson: Spot on! You've got it right! For you must

That I now take a great new pride in sport Which is the passport to my people's hearts, At least if they are white, I mean to say, My black South Africans could not care less, Except for soccer, which they seem to love. I only wish my black footballing team Was half as good as our white rugby boys! So, how are things at home? Oh, fine. fine, fine! Tony:

Nelson: Then there's no truth at all in what I read Of sleaze and eronyism, Cabinet splits...? Tony: These are the little things which come to

. those which we should always rise care-free. Leaving us time to face the real tasks, Of health and schools and mads et cetera. Our plan is now in place and we have done



KINGTON

The spirit of Mandelson: 'Oh Tony. Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine!'

Two thirds of what we pledged ourselves to do! Let us be judged by what we have achieved And not what petty tabloids have believed!

There appears to King Tony the spirit of Mandelson, which only he can see. Spirit: Oh Tony, Tony, waste not time on this! They do not want the health and schools routine!

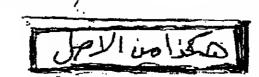
That's all for home consumption. While you're here, Make friends with old man Nelson - he can help With Libya, Lockerbie and all that, And that would be a great PR coup for you! But King Nelson is an ageing man And not long for this world: see if you can Discover his successor and make friends. Yet do it quick! He looks not well to me. The spirit of Mandelson vanishes. Tony: Oh, stay, imperfect spirit, stay and say What things await me on my coming home! This book by Duke Cook's wife - does it contain Much matter to my future loss or gain? The spirit of Mandelson returns, looking flustered. Spirit: Look, sweetie, I can't keep on doing this -These international visions cost the earth! But since I've got another minute more, Yes. I have read Madame Cook's little ocurre. She moans a lot, and says that Cook hates Brown. More of this anon, sweet gentles.

But so we all do, dear, what's new there? I'd forget about the book if I were you... Now fly I home to rebuild my career! The Duke of Prescott has it in for me. I fear! The spirit of Mandelson vanishes for a second time. Nelson: King Tony, tho' you seem lost in thought,

Present to you th'Archbishop, Desmond Tutu? Tony: Et Tutu. Brute? Tutu: What's that? Nelson:

I didn't catch... The spirit of Mandelson reappears, looking hot and bothered. Spirit: Tony are you affected by the baking

For God's sake man, just pull yourself together! The spirit vanishes for the final time. Exit all looking thoughtful, save for the newspaper hack Hack: King Tony's looking more than a little frail...
I think I'll try that on the Doily Mail. Exit, looking for n phone.





WAS DAY REVIEW,

ex before the pi

77.5

*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Foreign Office must shrug off the burdens of the past

IF EVER proof were required of Britain's need to move from the hurdens of the past to a more modest role in the world of the future, it must be in the procession of crises now hitting the Foreign Office. Yemen, Chechnya, Sierra Leone and Iraq: they are all serving to complicate the work of the Foreign Office with demands that it seems loath to understand. These crises are distinct in detail, of course. Chechnya has posed the problem of protection of nationals working abroad, and what we may reasonably ask of them in terms of information. Yemen asks us to choose between supporting our passport-holders and pursuing our foreign relatinns. Sierra Leone displays the deficiencies of intervention, while Iraq exposes the strains of our lonely loyalty to Washington.

But if there are common threads, then they are these. One - which we cannot easily get over - is the entanglements of past empire. London has become a home for all sorts of refugees and immigrants not just because of our tolerance but because we ruled so many places for so long. When we were fighting Communism in Aden or the Middle East, we encouraged fundamentalism abroad and allowed its leaders to take refuge here. Times change but we have to live with a colonial past, just as the French do with Algerian dissidents. And we have to accept, as the French must do too, that we can no longer control the fate of our former territories, in west Africa or anywhere else. That we lost no wars, and gave up our empire voluntarily, makes us in some ways more complacent, not better able to cope.

The second point is the protection of British citizens abroad. Like it or not - and the Foreign Office would clearly love the whole development to go away - more and more Britons are travelling abroad to faraway places for pleasure and husiness. They fall ill, and get taken hostage and shot at. In other words, they cause problems.

But they also, pace Sir David Gore-Booth and the other traditionalists in the Foreign Office, are the people who pay the salaries of the Foreign Office staff, For too long have the consular duties of British embassies been treated as the lesser area of our activities abroad.

time beefing up the consular service and less in worrying about his absurd ethical foreign policy and the social mix of his staff, we might be better able to cope with the Yemen situation. As it is, be is once again having to react to a crisis in which public concern has taken the initiative.

The worst foreign policy statement to come out of a aim to "punch above our weight in the world". We shouldn't. Our aim should be to develop a policy that suits interests abroad.



Mr Blair should find a useful job for his chum

WHERE NEXT for Peter Mandelson? The view of the Labour back benches is clear, namely that he should not If the Foreign Secretary, Rohin Cook, had spent more be in government. They have made it plain to Mr Blair that, anxious as be may be to rehabilitate bis old friend, Peter needs to do more penance for his error of judgement.

While many are settling old grievances, and others will never forgive the key architect of New Labour, Mr Blair will bave to listen to his parliamentary grassroots.

He is entering choppy political waters, as we have seen government was Douglas Hurd's statement that we should in recent weeks, and be is going to need their patience and support. Thus, he may have quietly to drop his idea of pushing Mr Mandeison as some kind of "personal Mr Mandelson hang out to dry. For one thing, Mr Blair And he can also be used to press the vital need for Britain

might not be in Downing Street were it not for the efforts to join the single currency. The ambitious Mr Mandelson of the former trade secretary. And for another, Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson are friends. The Prime Minister needs and values his advice, comradeship and support. He should be allowed it.

One does not have to be a fully paid up subscriber to the Führerprinzip to accept that Mr Blair is entitled to choose his own friends and advisers. Hostile party hacks may as well ask him not to listen to Cherie.

But the Prime Minister needs to find Mr Mandelson a useful role for reasons other than sentimentality. Even his worst critics might grant that Mr Mandelson is an intelligent man, who has shown a flair for presentation, campaigning and winning elections. And this is a year of elections, above all. Mr Mandelson would be an ideal choice to design campaigns and reinvigorate a neglected party machine. This would not preclude him from making our resources and supports our citizens as much as our ambassador". But this is not to say that he should just let the occasional thoughtful speech on policy, or the Third Way.

might find such a prospect irksome. He long wanted a "proper job", a ministry, and to get away from spin. But be blew it. He must accept that. The party needs his talents. And, after he's spent a decent period of selfless service, Mr Blair will have the ammunition to silence critics; he can then call on Mr Mandelson to return to the Cahinet table. The penance will be worth it, for everyone.

Mischief maker

YESTERDAY WE reported that Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, would not be sitting on the rehearing of the Pinochet case after objections from the former dictator's lawyers. Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairman of the appeal committee, called us "mischievous" (while admitting the story was true). Quite right. And long may it continue. As the press baron Lord Beaverbrook once said, it's the duty of the press to create mischief, a dictum as apposite today as ever.

This phoney story of a bloodless man emerging from the shadows

HERE'S HOW it goes. Yesterday morning, when the other broadsheets had front pages dominated by the conclusions of the enquiry into Ashworth hospital, The Daily Telegraph alone led with another twist in the Peter Mandelson saga. "Book tells of plot to succeed Blair," claimed the subheadline. On page 4, the main story was entitled: "Mandelson 'plotted to become PM." And the plot? Ah yes, the plot. The plot is outlined in chapter 16 of Paul Routledge's book about Peter Mandelson - Mandy: the Unauthorised Biography of Peter Man-delson – to be published next week.

"There had always been a Blair project," declares Mr Routledge, thought-fully sparing us the details. "Now, however, there emerged from the shadows the Mandelson project." Which was that Peter M "could supplant Gordon Brown as Chancellor and succeed Tony Blair" as leader of

the Labour Party and prime minister. Blimey! Even Routledge admits that 'Initially it seemed a preposterous idea". After all, as he points out, everybody hates Mandy, and he couldn't even get elected to Labour's executive committee when last he stood. But then the evidence began to stack up for the sceptical biographer. And I'm going to outline it for you in detail. Here it is. Item one, an interview in the New Statesman with the union leader John Edmonds in which he's nasty about Gordon Brown and nice ish about Peter Mandelson. Item two, an article in The Spectator a month later by Irwin Stelzer, economist and friend of Rupert Murdoch, comparing Brown unfavourably to

IT TURNED out that there was

no depth to which this president

would not blithely stoop to con-

quer, or at least to avoid defeat.

president in this dirty work. And

it turned out that a largely De-

president would grasp the ex-

cuse to broadcast the sexual

Mandelson. Item three, Philip Gould's book, The Unfinished Revolution, published in October, which absolved Mandelson from betraying Brown over the party leadership.

That's it. That's the entire "Mandelson project" which "emerged from the shadows". I have to say that we owe Mr Routledge a debt of gratitude for being able to discern, in the deep gloom, what most of us would never have noticed, no matter how hard we might have looked. It sometimes requires an active imagination to lend faces and voices to the nehulous shapes that disturb our sleep. Perhaps some day the minutes of the secret meeting between Messrs Stelzer, Lamonds and Mandelson will be published, and Routledge and The

Telegraph will be vindicated. It is a shame that the author could find no role in the plot for one of Peter's gay friends, because they must have been in there somewhere. The recent outing of Mandelson on television by the journalist, Matthew Parris, saved Routledge himself the disturbing task of being the occasion for another bout of tahloid gay-bashing. But in chapter 1 ("Scandal!") Routledge recalls that, in the aftermath of the Ron Davies affair, "The view began to take hold that Mandy was only the outward and visible sign of a wider network of homosexual men

in key positions in public life." The view "took hold" of the columnist Richard Littlejohn ("characteristically trenchant"), and Norman Tebbit ("characteristically blunt"), who both compared homosexuals to Freemasons. It took hold of "Tory politicians



DAVID **AARONOVITCH**

After all, everybody hates Mandy and he couldn't even get elected to the Labour executive

who asked questions about the magic fraternity". I am unsure whether "the magic fraternity" is a Tory phrase, or Routledge's own.) It took hold of "some observers [who] see the club [of New Labour insiders] as a 'pink Mafia' or, in the amusing American parlance, the 'homintern.'" It took hold of Stephen Bayley, former artistic director of the Millennium Dome, who is quoted as saying: "What is worrying is that people of power and influence are involved in an interest group which just happens to be a sexual one. It is a secretive interest group. It just happens to be about male gay sex."

Bayley goes on, uninterrupted by Routledge. "It is both defined by the bonds of secrecy and strengthened by them. As soon as those bonds are loosened, its powers are diminished." A bit like secret protocols, really. God, in the closet, Paul only has to reflect

ing where it can lead you! But Bayley's sentiments do make it all the more surprising that, in chapter 7 ("Outed!"), Mr Routledge professes himself astonished that Peter Mandelson will not just come out and tell

everyone about his sex life. "The question arises: why does Peter Mandelson deny his sexual orientation?" Routledge writes. Well, he does acknowledge it a hit,

Routledge concedes; for here are the ubiquitous "others" again to "argue that Mandelson uses his gayness as a political and social weapon". If that's true, then Mr M can hardly complain when Fleet Street camps (whoops, sorry) on his doors.ep. rurthermore: "The issue of Mandelson's sexual orientation will not go away. certainly not until he makes a clear, unambiguous statement that satisfies." That satisfies whom, Paul? Lord Tebbit? Stephen Bayley? Me?

No: "That satisfies his gay critics." There you have it. If it weren't for the "gay critics" the whole "issue" would go away. Paul Routledge himself has said enough about Peter Mandelson's sexuality to put the "issue" beyond doubt for all of us straights, hut those "gay critics" de-mand more. Perhaps it was their presence that prevented Routledge from attempting any serious analysis of exactly why someone like Peter Mandelson should prefer not to wear his sexuality round his neck, in a way heterosexuals never have to worry about. After all, to find out why homosexual politicians might want to stay

about them. The same reflection would also give Paul Routledge other insights, absent from the book. Such as, what was it about old Labour that became so unattractive to almost all classes of voter that the Blair project was seen as the solution? This analysis holds the key to Labour history for the last 20 years, and Peter Mandelson played an important strategic part in providing it. So did Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, and Neil Kinnock.

I have known Peter Mandelson for more than 20 years, and met Paul Routledge (whom I like enormously) at Routledge's own request. Some inconsequential remarks by me are (accurately) reported in the book. And it was not going to be, he told me, a "stitch-up". Yet the Peter Mandelson who "emerges from the shadows" is a man all of whose faults are magnified, and all of whose achievements are diminished. He is bloodless, manipulating, unprincipled, treacherous and calculating. Even his statement about Pinochet, that it would be "gut-wrenching" to see the old tyrant brought to justice, is attributed by Routledge (with no evidence) to a desire to curry favour in the party, and

help him fulfil his shadowy plan. I am not a Mandy man, and have never taken a hriefing from him, or seen him socially for several years. I just happen to know something about him and what really makes him tick. And that puts me well ahead of anyone who relies on this homophobic and conspiracy-obsessed work of partisanship for their understanding of an important modern political figure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wow, I've just won a hig bank account!" Philip Özersky, who caught and then sold Mark McGwire's record-breaking baseball for £1.6million

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When one hurns one's hridges, what a very nice fire it makes." Dulan Thomas. Welsh playwright and poet



WHEN YOU BREAK DOWN

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tered and bruised but still surviving, is finally destroyed. The Washington Post

And it turned out that there AS THEY look at the impeachwere people willing to aid the ment spectacle, Americans do not see individuals sacrificing weekends and evenings to conduct the nation's business. mocratic press corps that was They see people who care little feeling queasy about its role in bringing down a Democratic for anything other than their desire to bring Clinton down or to protect him. Bill Clinton's fate is not yet decided. makes a greater effort to secrets of Republicans. And so an ethical code that stood, bat-

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD US newspapers comment on the progress of President Clinton's Senate trial

gap between Washington and the rest of the country will not begin to close until Washington But the fate of those judging understand the values held

him has been. The widening so strongly by ordinary people. USA Today

> IMPEACHING A president carries different risks for the nation than impeaching one of

several hundred federal judges. If the evidence supports the allegations of material perjury while, the public will be further or obstruction of justice to the alienated from a Congress toreasonable satisfaction of most senators, then the Senate has a duty to remove Bill Clinton from office. The historical consequences of sweeping such conduct under a congressional carpet would be too serious. The Detroit News

THE PRESIDENT will survive; the partisans will gripe, and

parse their political meaning) the Senate would be wiser to listen to the message that the pollees are sending: Enough already. This trial is silly, not historic. Listen now, or listen at the polls in 2000. Philadelphia Inquirer

Kenneth Starr will try to keep

his office open forever. Mean-

tally out of touch with the hin-

terland. Instead of dissing (denigrating) polls (or trying to

PANDORA

PANDORA IS looking forward to Michael Cockerell's How To Be Home Secretary (Sunday, 24 January, BBC2). in which - for the first time documentary television cameras are allowed inside the Home Office. Of special interest will be the segment in which the Home Secretary. Jack Straw, who is ultimately responsible for MI5, discusses the MI5 file that exists on birn, initiated back in his so-called "subversive" days in the Seventies. Has Jack read it? Can we all have an on-air peek?

LAST THURSDAY, just a day after a group of ramblers, led by Andrew Bennett MP and accompanied by several policemen, marched down the controversial footpath in East Sussex belonging to Nicholas Van Hoogstraten. new barbed-wire fence was erected. Although his spokesman had told the press that Van Hoogstraten had left the country to holiday in France, a ramblers spokesman yesterday assured Pandora that the landowner supervised the building of the fence. In the meantime. Van Hoogstraten - a multimillionaire who made bis early fortune in Brighton property and was sentenced to Wormwood Scrubs back in the Sixties for a hand-grenade attack on the home of a business associate - has just found a new journalistic ally following years of savage press attacks. Auberon Waugh, in his column last Sunday, expressed his loathing for the ramhlers and described Van Hoogstraten as "not the

SCOTTISH POWER was all set to launch its brand-new £8m national advertising campaign, designed by the Bartle Bogle Hegarty agency to extol the benefits of signing up with the gas and electric firm. Then, new year storms blasted the North Country.

sort of person one would

wish to ask to tea" but

"ideal as a champion

against the Ramblers

Association".

"We decided to postpone the campaign for a while," a Scottish Power spokesman told Pandora. "Instead we've been running advertisements advising the 20,000 people who are entitled to compensation - £50 for 24 hours without power - to apply for it." Sounds like a perfect example of that old ad agency maxim: "Don't mix your messages.

IN THE latest issue of Loaded, Pandora was amused to read that the Arsenal midfielder, Ray Parlour, is dishing the dirt on his team mate Tony Adams, with whom be shares a room on away trips. Speaking of Tony, whose playing career rehlossomed after giving np the booze a while back, Ray confides: "When be's not thinking about his piano, he's writing poems. I'll be lying there trying to get off to kip and he's in the bathroom with the light on and his notebook going: "ere Ray, listen to this what I've written." Pariour confesses that he's not always an enthusiastic audience for Adams's latenight readings, hut assures the lads that: "We're like a comple of old dears!"

THE SAGA of Sly Stallone's Miami house has been exhaustively covered by Pandora, including Rambo's desire to sell the waterfront property to the London-based Orient Express group and his neighbours' objections to having a luxury botel built in their vicinity.

Now a new buyer for Sly's pad has appeared on the horizon. His name is Gunther IV, be's a frisky Alsatian dog and be inherited a fortune from his canine father, who was left a reported \$65m (£40m) by a German countess back in 1962. The animal now owns a company said to be worth \$200m, and houses in the Caribbean and in Europe.

He bas expressed his approval of the property in Miami by running around the garden with one of his handlers. Pandora suspects that Madonna, wbo lives nearby and was on the verge of selling ber own house recently, might be far happier to welcome a guard dog into the neighbourhood than crowds of gawping tourists.

KENNETH BRANAGH, about to direct Love's Labour Lost as a film musical, bas made a rather surprising casting decision. The Beverly Hills

brat-next-door star of Clueless, Alicia Silverstone (pictnred), will play opposite Branagh.

> Nobody was more surprised than the 22year-old Alicia. "I can't do this," she told him. Branagh responded: "Of course you can. Filming atarts in this country in Fehruary; Silverstone

is working hard on her singing

What's wrong with vindictive wives?

I HAVE read with incredulity the rubbish, mostly written by fortysomething men up to no good I am sure, that has followed in the wake of the book by Margaret Cook (dump the surname - Margaret) about her marriage to Robin Cook, and the ignoble end at Heathrow airport of that period of her life. It is personal, they say - vindictive, vengeful and embittered.

Yes. What else is someone in ber position supposed to feel? You may persuade yourself that you will try not to show these feelings, because the world will love and respect you less for this than if you pretend a saintly forgiveness, of the sort that Hillary Clinton has now made ber own. But burning hurt and rage are what you feel, and revenge (preferably divine) is what you yearn for. Ask me - I know, and I wrote an

emotional book about it. What gets these commentators really foaming is not only that the partner of a famous or powerful person should be so weak as to respond in these human ways, but that she or he should then reveal this vulnerability. They have nothing to



YASMIN **ALIBHAI-BROWN**

Mr Cook should praise his ex-wife's courage and tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother

say about the public figure flaunting the new model in the media, thus further humiliating the ex-partner. But they do sanctimoniously ask whether it is right for someone as insignificant as a spouse to expose the private life of a politician, or whoever, and cause them damage.

Wrong question, sirs. You should instead ask whether the partner of

a public figure has the same rights if we scrutinise public figures in this as you or me to say and write what they wish about their lives, especially when they have been maltreated. Or are they expected to render their pain invisible just to keep up appearances?

Writing, as the playwright David Edgar said this week, is a fundamental and universal human right. It is also a "vital part of being human to try to understand why other human beings - nasty as well as nice - behave as they do". Other criticisms don't stand up, either

If Dr Cook has said things that have alarmed her ex-husband's colleagues because of political implications, why should this be any more outlandish and unethical than the dirt-digging carried out by Paul Routledge and other unauthorised biographers? Maybe it is because she is not a seedy political chap hanging out with Charlie Whelan but a fragrant wife, "a slight and delicate creature" (the clever title of her book) who should be coping with her knowledge by devoting herself to nurturing a bonsai tree.

As for the ludicrous worries that

way the best people will simply avoid public life, we should be more concerned that these ambitious and able people will fail to get the best partners in life - because anyone with personality, mtellect and self-respect will refuse to sign away their rights and become trophies of compliance - thus leaving the selection pool bubbling with bland secretaries and too-eager-to-please

personal assistants. We used to laugh and cry at the appalling loyalty displayed by Tory wives and ex-wives in the inglorious past. Remember Mrs David Mellor as she was forced to smile for photographers after the dreadful revelations about her philandering husband - who then left her anyway for a rich woman with deadly red lipstick. Recall, too, the depressing good behaviour of Mrs Tim Yeo and Mrs Alan Clark as they stood by their men, partly, I imagine, because they felt they had no other options.

You would bave boped that Labour men and women, although clearly not able to resist sexual temptation any more than the last

lot, might be more democratic and fair in the way they dealt with those they betrayed and left after many years of good service. And if this is indeed "new" Britain which is more open and receptive to emotion, as everyone from Martin Jacques to Susie Orbach seems to be suggesting, we should rejoice that people like Margaret Cook are no longer bampered by the pressures of outof-date, unjust social constraints.

Margaret is a thoroughly modern, bright, professional, emotionally bonest woman, who has written a lively account of a survivor who saw it all her way, at least after Robin flew away. Like Diana, Princess of Wales, she refused to read out the part written for her by someone else. She wanted it put down as it happened, from her point of view.

If Robin Cook wants to do the right thing now and come out shining, all he has to do is praise his exwife for having the courage to do what she has done, say that he can understand bow he has made her feel, tell his boys to respect their wonderful mother, and wish her well with all his heart.

We must send in troops to stop the killing in Kosovo

JUST BEFORE Christmas, Veran Matic, director of the independent Belgrade radio station B92, met the American special envoy to the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, and asked him wby be continued to talk to Slobodan Milosevic, Holbrooke replied that there was no credible opposition leader. Matic replied that what was important was not individual leaders but support for a broad range of democratic initiatives to build an alternative public opinion.

In wars, it is always the democratic groups committed to peaceful methods of managing conflict that get squeezed. War is polarising there is no space for democratic initiatives. Nowhere is this more true than in Kosovo. where 10 years of non-violent resistance by Kosovan Albanians to Serbian repression failed to gain international support. Within Kosovo, the peaceful approach has lost legitimacy. The international community's task to find a political solution bas been

much harder since the war began. The political positions of both Milosevic and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) depend on their uncompromising stance and, indeed, on continuing violence. It is hard to see bow the KLA could ever give up its demand for independence, or how Milosevic could ever concede more than token limited autonomy (after all, it was he who took away the province's autonomy in 1989). Moreover, the international community cannot even fulfil its role as mediator because of its own distaste for independence, for fear of further fragmentation.

The escalation of the violence is reminiscent of the war in Bosnia Herzegovina. The international community is reluctant to intervene militarily and pin its hopes on the success of political negotiations. which are always elusive. The humanitarian crisis and media attention slowly drag them into the



MARY **KALDOR**

before a ceasefire is firmly established

conflict, bowever. In the autumn, after the plight of Albanians driven from their bomes and living in woods was publicised, the international community threatened air strikes on Serbia and succeeded in negotiating a ceasefire and partial withdrawal of Serbian troops, to be monitored by unarmed verifiers under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation

The verifiers are even weaker than the peacekeepers were in Bosnia; they are particularly dependent on Serbian goodwill. Meanwhile, the political talks were supposed to continue. But they have got nowhere and, as in Bosnia. the very act of negotiation helps to legitimise the warring parties and further sideline moderate democratic voices; a stream of diplomats and politicians continue to visit Milosevic. Now the ceasefire is

in violation of the agreement.

There should be no talk of a political settlement

In Europe (OSCE).

being eroded on both sides and Serbian forces are returning to the area

The most likely acenario is that the war will continue, perhaps through several more broken ceasefires, with mostly civilian casualties,

buge physical destruction to vil-lages and infrastructure, and many refugees and displaced persons. Moreover, it will be difficult to contain the violence to Kosovo, Conflict could escalate in Macedonia and

Montenegro, even in Albania. To avoid this scenario a change of strategy towards Kosovo is needed. There should be no talk of a political settlement before a ceasefire is firmly established and normal life has begun to return to the province.

This was, after all, the British government's approach to Northern Ireland; there was no question of involving the IRA in talks about Northern Ireland's political future before a ceasefire bad been convincingly established. Milosevic is as much of a terrorist as Gerry Adams or Adam Demaci (the KLA spokesman) - if not more so.

Talks should focus on establisbing a meaningful ceasefire enforced peacekeeping troops under OSCE auspices who would also be responsible, as in Bosnia, for controlling weapons stores and for demilitarisation. The forces should be commanded by Europeans, probably British or French. There should be a token Russian presence to satisfy the Serbs and. if possible, a token US presence to satisfy the British who do not want to commit ground troops without this. At the same time. the "extraction force" that is currently based in Macedonia. under Nato auspices, should be expanded and renamed a "deterrent force" to intervene in the event that the ceasefire breaks down.

The initiative for this change of strategy would have to he taken by the Europeans. The Americans are unwilling to commit ground troops and the only form of military action they are prepared to take, as in Iraq and as was threatened earlier against Serbia, is air strikes.

But air strikes are notoriously counterproductive, especially if they



UN peacekeeping soldiers in the Balkans "should intervene"

are not followed through by ground troops. They provide an excuse for cracking down on the opposition and they increase support for extreme positions. The threat of air strikes in the autumn provided justification for closing down some independent media and the repressive university law, as well as making things difficult for aid organisations.

It also hardened opinion, not only in Serbia but in Republika Srbska as well. European governments have been pioneering a new approach to peace-enforcement that contrasts with the American preoccupation with bombing. The British Defence Review is innovative in the way that it reorients British armed forces to contingencies of the Bosnia and Kosovo type.

Moreover, this kind of thinking is not confined to the British. The Danes developed their own strategic concept during the Bosnian war and were very effective at enforcing bumanitarian corridors and even eliminating Serbian tanks. A strat-

egy of this kind has to be combined with a political effort to support and build up democratic alternatives in Serbia as well as Kosovo and indeed in the whole Balkan region.

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Milosevic needs to be isolated not courted, by the international community, and indicted by the war crimes tribunal. The indictment of Radovan Karadzic did belp open up new political perspectives in Bosnia. The international community needs to talk to and support the democrats, whoever they are and however marginal they appear today.

Those engaged in the fighting have to stop the violence, but they will never be able to find a lasting solution. In the end, it is independentminded citizens such as Veran Matic and others who will create a situation where peace can be constructed.

Mary Kaldor'a 'New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era' is published this month by Polity Press, price £39.50 hardback, £12.95 paperback

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offices dedicated to delivering services to

customers over the telephone. Call centrea are used acrosa a range of sectors, including financial services, travel and transport, information technology, marketing and retail. Call-centre staff, or "agents", typically spend their working bours seated at their desks in constant contact with customers, making or receiving telephone calls and processing information

Europe has seen a huge growth in these call centres over the last 10 years. One study has claimed that at the end of 1997 there were as many as 3,560 call centres in the UK alone, employing a total of approximately 163,000 staff. This growth looks likely to continue into the next century.

Call centres have recently captured the attention of the media and the academic community. It has been argued that they are the "new sweatshops", and that they offer us a disturbing vision of the shape work will take in the future.

Women outnumber men in

virtually all call centres. At

the lowest, they make up 40 per

CALL CENTRES are cent of employees; at the highest, 90 per cent. There are aome differences between sectors, with males better represented in IT call centres than in others. On the whole the staff employed in call centres tend to be young, aged between 20 and 30. The research seems to sug-

gest that employers often consider females to he more suitable for call-centre work than males, mainly because they are regarded as having "natural" communication skills and the ability to "smile down the phone". In our research, this was a typical response: "I do think that there are advantages being in this business if you are female, because, in general, females are better at communicating - and it is all about communicating - making people feel a part of the team and making them feel as if they

Call centres employ a range of the latest management techniques. In particular, team working and "empowerment" are widespread. The majority of call centres have flat organisational structures with three layers - agent, supervisor and manager. The relationships



Are call centres the new sweatshops?

PODIUM VICKI BELT

From a speech by a research associate at the University of Newcastle to the Royal Geographical Society

between staff and management in the call centres that we

managers, and some described their centres as "family-like" environments. The majority of call centres are not unionised, and staff had

studied were on the whole described positively. Most agents are on first-name terms with

mixed views on this. Some agents, supervisors and managers were hostile to unions. Call-centre ataff are heavily

listen in to calls when they wish. In addition, copious statistics are collected about agents' performance. However, despite being hostile to this, most agents seem to accept monitoring as a necessary aspect of their work In line with other studies,

our research found that agents are often frustrated by the repetitive nature of the job. Taking calls all day is deemed to be stressful, tiring and dull: "There's only so many times you can say what your name is and what the product is," one commented. "Sometimes you get 85 calls a day, and you just can't speak when you get out of here. It's terribly boring."

"I really try to think of other things that I do in my free time," said another. I do oriental dancing, belly-dancing, and I think, what would be a good costume?' I also do meditation and yoga, and I try to switch off completely and think of absolutely nothing. But you do find you have to resort to things to keep yourself sane after a little while of working in

a call centre." As a result of the routine and as a whole.

monitored. Calls are often stressful nature of taking calls recorded, and supervisors can all day, many agents complained of "burn-out". Indeed. staff turnover is high in many call centres because of this factor. It was clear that many agents feel that their work is undervalued by wider society. A number of agents said that they have constantly to "convince" people that they have a

"proper" job: However, despite this many women enjoy the atmosphere in call centres, claiming that they have "energy" and "buzz", and are "fast-moving". Furthermore, many call centres have developed an excellent work-related aocial life, and are considered sociable places with a good "team spirit".

About half of the women interviewed expressed a desire to move up the career ladder. However, agents stressed that promotion is difficult. Furthermore, most of the women with career aspirations did not express a desire to move beyond

supervisory level. There is a danger that callcentre work confirms women's position in servicing and caring roles, and their subordination in society

Such childish behaviour



s before the pil

ANN TRENEMAN

The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want someone to kiss it all better

EVERYONE INVOLVED in the saga of the runaway foster-parents Jeff and Jennifer Bramley believes that what they are doing is for "the sake of the children". The police say it, the social workers insist on it, the various parents are all convinced of it. Certainly that is what the Bramleys themselves believe. In fact, the letter that they have written to the world at large pleading their case, hegins: "We, Jeff, Jenny, Jade and Hannah, write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other and wishes to stay together." This is misleading in at least one respect. Jade is five, Hannah is three. They did not write this letter: Grown-ups wrote this letter, just as grown-ups created this mess.

I do not know why the Bramleys decided that now is the time to tell all. Perhaps, after 17 weeks on the run, they are growing tired of it all. Undoubtedly they have become obsessed with their plight - who wouldn't be? - and have decided that the only way to right things is to tell the world about their injustice. Thus they sat down at their secret location and addressed a letter "To Whom It May Concern". The letter fills three-and-a-half sides and tells us much that is supposed to be secret. They say they are good, honest, caring people who were rejected as adoptive parents because they were observed to say "no" too often.

It is the kind of stuff that makes your heart ache and you can see that they really do believe that they wrote the letter for Hannah and Jade. But it was two adults who decided that the only way forward was to run away from the system. It was the adults who have now decided they want to come in from the cold. And now it is the adults who believe that the great god of publicity will.

They are not the only ones who believe this. "If only we could get this story out, everyone would see how crazy it is and they would let me keep my daughter," one young mother said to me years ago. She, like the Bramleys, had chosen to disappear with her child rather than abide by a social services decision. "She, too, was outraged. She, too, had a heartbreaking tale and good reason to rail against a system that is secretive to the point of obsessive-



PC Peter Morley holding two coats belonging to Hannah and Jade Bennett, found in the car abandoned by Jeff and Jennifer Bramley

ness. It was against the law for me even to talk to this mother. Eventually the High Court got involved. "The upbringing of a young girl is at stake here!" said a barrister. He was wrong, of course. What was at stake was not a child's life but a system that tries to be caring but can

That mother never got her publicity, and I don't know what happened to her. If she is still out that the first result of the Bramleys' plea has been not vindication, but soap opera and chaos. Everyone who ever touched the lives of these girls has been getting in on the act.

also be ruthless.

First came the natural mother, Jackie Bennett. This is a woman who has given up her children, then fought to get them back, and now has decided that the Bramleys should have them after all. "I want my children to be settled in one place, in one school, with a loving

family like yourselves," she says, I'm not sure whether we should believe her, but it certainly grahhed yesterday's headlines.

The next one to care and share was Paul Duckett. He is the father of Jade hut has never had much to do with her upbringing. Not that this stopped him from appearing on the Todoy programme. The Bramleys, he says, cannot really love the children. "If they did, they wouldn't be dragging them around England in this nomadic style." He loves Jade very much, he says, and "this is hurting me a lot." He added: "You don't see me writing these hig letters. It's a ploy purely to get the public on their side."

Social services are also worried. Not however about whatever circumstances led to this sad situation. By the way, we still do not know everything about these circumstances. The Bramleys did allude to them in their letter but some bits of

it have not been printed. It just goes to show that, though the soap opera is played out in public, in private the system continues to protect itself. Secrecy remains paramount. It is often said that the system has to be so secretive to "protect the children". This is true almost all of the time but when it breaks down - and drives people to abduct children then secrecy is part of the problem,

not the solution. ton, director of Cambridgeshire Social Services, is also worried for the sake of the children. "Are they going to school? Clearly it seems not. Are they going to the doctor? Are they having contact with other children? They need all that contact." Then she appealed to the Bramleys "to put the children first, over and above their own distress - even though I know that is incredibly difficult". It was time, she

said, to give the children back.

It is enough to make you want the Bramleys to stay fugitives for ever hut, I suspect, this is not to be. It seems inevitable that they will come back, after making contact in such a dramatic fashion. In fact the letter shows two people who are desperate to come home: "Jade and Hannah are two bright, intelligent, articulate children who love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be ever, making the hopes and dreams of these two wonderful girls come true." The Bramleys are looking for a fairy-tale ending. They want Jim to Fix It for them. They want some-

one to kiss it all better, just like that. But if they are acting childishly, then they have company. All the grown-ups believe that they are right, and have found some moral reason why this is so. To hear Cambridgeshire Social Services going on about whether or not Jade and

Hannah are visiting a doctor beggars belief. The problem is not whether Jade and Hannah are vislting a doctor; the problem is that the system has messed up to such an extent that Jade and Hannah are fugitives whose foster-parents have had to appeal to the nation. That is what should be talked about, not doctor's appointments.

This is a dire state of affairs. The adults have messed up - and badly. lectures, it should be the children. Perhaps they should get their own lawyer to demand that all the grown-ups sit down now and figure out a way for the fugitives to come in from the cold and get a fair hearing. Then, after the adults all feel better, perhaps someone could figure out what really is in the best interests of these two little girls, who could be forgiven for thinking that unconditional love is a pretty hard thing to come by these days.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PETER MOORHOUSE



The chairman of the Police Complaints Authority responds to criticism of their inquiry into the Lawrence case

THE INDEPENDENT'S criticisms of the PCA are surprising as when we supervised the investigation in 1997, and produced a summary report. it was described by The Independent as "a damning indictment of the inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen".

Your recent editorial omitted to say that charges would also have heen preferred against four other officers involved, had they not retired. But we are not permitted to bring discipline charges against resigned or retired officers. under existing regulations.

The suggestion that "internal investigations are not tough enough to control a force that can mishandle witnesses, lose or destroy evidence, and ignore promising leads" is questionable. The authority would have charged all five senior officers for these very failings.

Effective liaison with victims of crime has long been a problem for the police service. The investigation concluded that the failures in this case lay with senior officers conducting the murder inquiry. It would be wrong to bring disciplinary action against inexperienced junior officers who attempted and failed to provide effective family liaison in this case.

The discipline review had to decide whether officers who took part in the murder inquiry breached the Police Discipline Code. The system demands that charges must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The authority has essed changes to the discipline system, including reduction in the standard of proof, and many of the changes are due to be implemented this April.

Criticise the legal framework within which the PCA must work, and you would have our support. But to criticise us for working within the legal framework laid down by Parliament is unjustifiable.

Going East with the Bard

JANUARY IS traditionally the time for the annual family outing to see some Shakespeare. For anyone who has ever wondered why such trips often turn into fiascos of boredom and disappointment guaranteed to put children off the Bard for life, John Russell Brown's new book is a must.

Arguing that most British versions of his work "occupy only a part of the spectrum of what theatre can be ', Russell Brown thinks that we have become used to viewing Shakespeare "though this distorting filter". To explore other ways of staging the Boring Bard, and to see what different theatrical traditions might offer, he goes East in search of enlightenment.

In Puri, south west of Calcutta, he sees a Jatra (touring) theatre; its performances start around midnight problem, comes the reply, because as and end at 6.30am. In Bali, the exotic many as 40 audience members come dance dramas that lit up Antonin Ar- on stage and improvise parts. But how taud's fevered mind in the Thirties can you keep an audience's interest



THURSDAY POEM

THE FAULTLINE

BY BERNARD O'DONOGHUE

When there's a sprinkle of snow

In mid-January, yet not enough

To stop it turning vein-translucent.

When young relationships freeze

And snap. When death, suddenly,

Crops up in the conversation

And no-one quite remembers

Who raised the subject. As far past

Solstice as November was before it;

No sign of spring, and no

Going back. All just serving

To show, in case we'd forgotten,

Our faultline: that we're designed

To live neither together nor alone.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Bernard O'Donoahue's

new collection, 'Here Nor There' (Chotto & Windus, £8.99).

THURSDAY BOOK

NEW SITES FOR SHAKESPEARE: THEATRE, THE AUDIENCE AND ASIA BY JOHN RUSSELL BROWN, ROUTLEDGE, £12.99

a funeral procession and cremation ceremony. In China, he parlays with thesps: in Japan, he witnesses today's dramatists and directors using traditions without growing stale. Russell Brown sounds as if he had

a good time. In one Indian district, he comes across a group of three actors who give all-night shows lasting 12 hours. With only three actors? Not

leave him cold, but he is captivated by for 12 hours? Well, try this apple wine and smoke the "leaves of a locally grown herb". School trips to the local rep were never this much fun.

Once, a power failure cut off electric lights for a show in Kerala, southern India, leaving the stage lit only by a low-level lamp. The result was an unexpected optical illusion in which the actors seemed to float in the dark, evoking a "dream-like state". Bye-bye naturalism, hello visionary theatre. But is this just another case of cul-

tural imperialism? One bored former associate director of the National Theatre roams the world, picking up tasty hints from faraway cultures, and brings them home to spice up the West's jaded palate? Definitely not. Russell Brown does not want to plunder Third World theatre and import its gems. He prefers to learn frem it and see what its methods might do for our stage.

For example, India's Kutiyattam theatre, which is both highly contrived and extensively improvised, provokes thoughts about how today's Shakespeare tends to be rehearsed to death. While, in the Thirties, Stratford productions had a two- or three-week rehearsal period, today's rehearsals stretch over as many as eight weeks. Lack of rehearsal makes actors improvise more and take greater risks. with the result that their acting is more alive. Long rehearsals mean careful, subtle and original interpretations that may put audiences to sleep.

Nor is unprepared acting alien to the British tradition. In 1922, Harley change audiences. Drawing on his ex-



Kurosawa's film 'Ran' adapted 'King Lear' to medieval Japan

fully prepared, long-running productions. The art of acting "may profit a little by failure, but what it cannot endure is the numbing monotony of success". Highly polished performances are related to good acting, he said, as reproductions are to an original Rembrandt.

Let's imagine such ideas applied to today's Royal Shakespeare Company. Instead of the director-led, longrehearsal institution, we would have 10 smaller companies working as actors' collectives. Actors would quickly learn their words and improvise on stage. There would be a different show every night. All the pricey scenery would go on the scrap heap; all the costumes to the Theatre Museum. Everyday clothes and common props would be used; audiences would be encouraged to cheer on the action.

Not only does Russell Brown want to change actors; he also wants to Granville-Barker (the actor, director perience of open-air theatre in India,

and dramatist) argued against care- he shows how spectators there treat actors like sporting heroes, calling out encouragement, advice and praise. Even in Kabuki, with its extraordinary artifice, star actors are greeted by name when they first arrive on stage. The best way to kill such lively audiences is to put them indoors in darkened halls.

The last part of New Sites for Shakespeare argues for complete reform of the way the British bard is performed. Neatly written and jargonfree, Russell Brown's polemic is one of the best books about Shakespeare because it dares to ask a basic question: what's the point of drama? Even if you don't agree with his opinions about the reconstructed Globe Theatre, or think his views on today's touring companies are a bit outdated, his passion, energy and longing for excitement command attention. But beware: this book may encourage you to abandon your yearly outing to the theatre, and go abroad instead.

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Brian Moore

A SLIGHT, lonesome-looking Irish gentleman, invariably photographed wearing a capacious mackintosb or tweed jacket and a quizzical smile: Brian Moore's modest appearance belied an achievement as boundless as his talent. His fan club extended from Graham Greene and Alfred Hitchcock to Christopher Ricks, Anita Brookner and Barry Humphries.

His 20 novels appeared at regular intervals, without any apparent fuss or strain, as though on some creative production line, and were all praised with a fulsomeness that became predictable. He won many prizes, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times, and saw five of his novels filmed. His imagination ranged freely across continents and time zones, from Thirties Belfast to modern New York and from France under Napoleon III to the Jesuits of 17th-century Quebec. And the main themes of his work, the concerns that spurred him again and again to write, were the largest and most problematic of all: virtue. conscience, faith and sin.

Despite regular publication, plaudits and prizes, Moore never quite achieved fame. Partly this was the result of location; he never lived in England, where his reputation was highest, and was never part of the literary establishment there or in America. But he was an outsider by temperament. Uniquely among established writers, he would not accept cash advances for his work, saying, "They make you a kind of indentured servant to the publisher. If a book isn't working. I like to be able to throw it away." Nor would be have any truck with modern trends such as the walk-on part for the author ("I'm not the sort of writer who can afford flourishes. I don't want the reader to hear or see me") although it could be argued that he pre-dated magical realism in The Great Victorian Collection (1975), where an antique expert's dream exhibition of priceless objects is reified outside his window in Carmel, California.

He cannot quite be claimed as one of their own by English or Irish or American or Canadian literature. He wrote for no constituency except intelligent readers of strongly plotted novels underplaned by a serious moral purpose. "I like to say that I have no parish," be told Michael Shelden in 1997:

I live as I choose and I write about various times and places . . One problem for Irish writers is that they tend to be obsessed with Ireland. Because I had emigrated. I didn't want to spend the rest of

He was born in Belfast in 1921, one of eight children, a large family of devout republican Catholics. His father was a surgeon, and the first Papist ever to be elected to the Senate of Queen's University. One of his uncles bad been commander-inchief of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, an early, try-out version of patriotism to a united Ireland, and the Catholic's fear of Hell, injected in his bloodstream from an early age. Neither quite converted him. He remained ambivalent about his beliefs. "I felt tremendous guilt when I was very young," he once said, "because I was always convinced I had made a bad First Confession."

Moore lost his faith, partly as a way of circumventing his terror of damnation, but remained fascinated by the numinous and the power of faith. He admired those who believed strongly in things, even if they were demonstrably wrong. His books are full of passionately held beliefs and equally passionate rejections of faith - in Catholics (1972), he memorably portrayed the mind of an elderly friar who tries to save a regious order from extinction even as his own faith dwindles to nothing. He joined the war effort as a civil-

ian this father would have been incensed had he joined the British army), working in the British Ministry of War Transport, and later spent two years with the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. distributing supplies in Warsaw. He was present at the trial of Rudolf

'I'm not the sort of writer who can afford flourishes. I don't want the reader to hear or see me'

Hoss, the notorious commandant of Auschwitz, watched as witnesses went up to spit in Höss's face, and never forgot the final interchange. The judge said, "You are responsible for the death of at least a million people. What have you to say for yourself?" Hoss looked at the court. "I am a German officer," he replied proudly. "I obeyed my orders."

Moore left Belfast, he said, to spare his parents the spectacle of seeing him refuse to attend Mass on Sundays. But it was the pursuit of a woman 10 years his senior that brought him across the Atlantic to Canada in 1948. The object of his affections turned him down, but be stuck around, became a journalist ed to write. He married his first wife, Jacqueline Scully, a French-Canadian, in 1952.

His first books were written under the nom de plume of Michael Bryan. The first published under his real name was The Lonely Possion of Judith Hearne. It had been rejected by 10 American publishers

the IRA. The young Brian thus had London firm of André Deutsch in 1954. Laurie Lee, the poet and future author of Cider With Rosie, considered it offensive because of a scene in a lavatory, but the editor Diana Athill recognised its qualities and recommended Deutsch buy it. It was published in 1955, was reviewed with instant enthusiasm and won the

Author's Club prize for a first novel. A bleak tale about a lonely alcoholic Belfast spinster, the germ of the book was a stray remark made by Mrs Keogh, one of Moore's mother's lame-duck single friends: she had been engaged just once, and used to refer to "my brother-in-law that would have been". The poignancy of the remark triggered some creative empathy in Moore that would be replicated in further novels of women suffering a loss of faith or a disastrous impulse towards carnal love (I Am Mary Dunne, 1968; The Temptation of Eileen Hughes, 1981).

Religion, sex and an Irish background constantly recurred in Moore's work. He had a virtual fetish about writing in the voice, and the skin, of a woman. He defended it lightly, saying, "If I write as a woman, I can do all the autobiographical stuff without getting picked up on it"; but the regularity with which he performed this transgender ventriloquism suggests a deeply serious engagement with female emotional responses. The charting of a doomed modern love affair, in The Doctor's Wife, filled with off-puttingly clinical sexual en-counters, marked perhaps the lowpoint of these explorations, although the book was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1976.

Moore moved to New York in the early Sixties. His marriage broke up and, in 1966, he moved to California with his second wife, Jean Denney, to whom many of his novels are devotedly inscribed. They settled in Malibu, and spent holidays in a firlined, ocean-overlooking retreat in Nova Scotia, her family's bome. The condition of home and exile, especially Irish exile, informed many of his books, most notably The Luck of Ginger Coffey (1960), which was filmed with Robert Shaw and Mary Ure. Two decades later The Mangan Inheritance (1979) featured a reverse journey, with an American writer searching for his Irisb roots, and a foothold in literary history through kinship with the poet James Clarence Mangan.

One, perhaps surprising, influwhich a nervous schoolteacher spends an innocent night with a young girl. He liked the way Moore got inside women's heads, and signed him up to imagine bow the wives of famous modern spies might



starring Paul Newman and Julie Andrews. It was generally regarded as minor-league stuff, but Moore was responsible for the intensity of the best scene, in which Newman spectacularly hungles the murder of a Communist villain in a Soviet kitchen. "You know; my father was surgeon," Moore had informed Hitchcock, "and be always said it wasn't that easy to kill a man . . . "

In return, the master of suspense taught him about plot structure and narrative drive - lessons he only put into practice much later. After 1987, his style changed drasence on Moore's work was the movie tically. His novels became more director Alfred Hitchcock. Educat- consciously public. His prose, never haunted as Moore, Hitchcock was and spare as a crew-cut. His plots impressed by the "cold eroticism" of raced along like thrillers, with The Feast of Lupercal (1956), in bardly a moment for reflection. although their settings were significant battle zones.

The Colour of Blood (Booker shortlisted in 1987) begins with squealing tyres and gunshots as the Cardinal Primate of Poland goes on when it came into the offices of the react to their defection. The result the run from the security police and,

the cost of political beliefs when you're not clad in robes of office. In Lies of Silence (Booker shortlisted, 1990) a Belfast hotel manager, on the verge of leaving his wife, has to drive a proxy bomb to blow up his own

Perhaps it was the dormant enes of his Ulster background that led to a late series of novels on colonial themes. Apart from the Jesuit missionaries in Canada in Black Robe (1985), he wrote The Statement (1996) about a Catholic French killer protected by the church under the Vichy regime; and No Other Life (1993), about a messianic priest coming to power on a French-Caribbean not a million miles from Haiti. His most recent novel. The Ma-

hotel, on pain of having his wife killed.

gician's Wife (1997), sent an ambitious French prestidigitator and his nervous spouse to a serie, or court reader is pitched into a choice be-

template. He was a writer who faithhis conscience and found settings for times and places. Rootless, but obsessed by his roots, bereft of religious faith, but always drawn to the springs and impulses and beirayals of personal faith, be was a writer who combined effortless story-telling with moral questioning, and brought el. He is one of the fo practitioners who will be read with pleasure in 50 years' time.

JOHN WALSH

Brian Moore, novelist: born gathering, at Compiègne in 1856. Belfast 25 August 1921; married whence Napoleon III sends him to Algeria to amaze the Islamic peasants with Western magic, and the Denney, died Malibu, California II January 1999.

Alan Macdonald

ALAN MACDONALD was one of the pioneers of BBC global television news. He was a tireless champion of BBC World, the BBC's international 24-hour news and information channel.

Today, BBC World is watched in nearly 60 million bomes in 187 countries, and CNN's supremacy has been challenged. Macdonald held a passionate belief that it was the BBC's duty to create a television news channel to match the excellence of BBC World Service radio. In 1986, he left his job as political correspondent at the World Service to take the first tentative steps.

in those early pioneering days, when CNN ruled in the global news village, Macdonald and his colleagues found much opposition, and innumerable obstacles. Many BBC executives did not share his enthusiasm for the venture. Funding was a fraught subject as neither the licence fee nor the World Service grant-in-aid was available. The commercial route was taken, and the BBC's global television news service was developed by the commercial division of the BBC. There were concerns too over standards - how could a commercially funded news channel maintain BBC standards?

Alan Macdonald was at the forefront of the launch in 1991 and subsequent development of BBC World Service Television (now BBC World); the BBC's first international satellite television channel. He became Head of Business Development and Regional Director, South Asia and the Middle East, and established partnerships and distribution arrangements as the channel spread throughout the world. Now, there is ... scarcely a continent or country where the BBC World signal is not available.

Macdonald's background in the world's most respected radio service was useful in his new role. But he knew only too well that, no matter credulity and hypocrisy.

The glitter and beft of Brian rules apply in the commercial marhowever strong the brand, tougher. Moore's achievement, the eclecti- ket for news: markets do not sudcism and range of his ocurre, the | denly appear when satellite signals consistency and truth of his powers | are beamed; each territory is fought of evocation, are bewildering to con- for, against both established and growing competition; and each terfully externalised the promptings of ritory won must cover its costs. If the BBC can succeed with BBC World moral debate in the most unlikely today, it will be because of the early work done by people like Macdonald.

Those who watched him at work in India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Middle East and elsewhere; saw him combine an understanding of the commercial realities with an admirable personal code. He believed in a vivid seriousness to the post-war establishing long-standing relation : hips based on tru business partners became friends.

Alan Macdonald cut a distinctive figure among the younger media men of today - tall the towered above most people), old-fashioned in manner and mode, a little eccentric (he was one of the few BBC executives who rode a motor-bike). imaginative and amusing.

He was born in 1945 and educated at Whitgift School, Croydon. He went on to read Chinese, Economics and Sociology at Leeds University. after spending a year as a teacher in Malaysia working with the British aid organisation Voluntary Service Overseas. From 1966 he worked as a regional newspaper reporter before oining BBC World Service as an nternational journalist.

Pitt was escorted back to her new. He joined External Services News, as it was then, in March 1972 and held a number of positions notably duty editor, specialist correspondent, assistant intake editor and Newsroom assistant editor. He travelled to many parts of the world as a foreign correspondent, and worked in London as the BBC World Service political correspondent during the early years of the Thatcher government.

Even serious illness the was diagnosed with a brain turnour a year ago) didn't dampen his spirit nor stop him. It was characteristic of Macdonald that be turned aside all advice to stay away from work. He believed he had a personal duty to the BBC, and be did his duty until the end of his life.



porter of the Downs Syndrome Association and played a major part in the early 1980s campaign to curb the

BOB WHEATON

(two daughters); died Tokyo 3 Innice Clark (two sons, two daughters); died London 9 January 1999.

Professor Valerie Pitt

VALERIE PITT was one of the most part of a working-class family with astute, perceptive, entertaining, and, when she wanted to be which was much of the time - devastating figures of the late-20thcentury Church of England, a church with which she had a iong and turbulent relationship of disloyal faithfulness. Drawn to Anglicanism by its theological potential rather than its culture, she once wrote that its spiritual life was "carefully insulated from the world in which coal is mined and lemon meringue pie is made . . . Betjeman is only too justly its poet."

Her theological position is per-haps best described as one of "radical orthodoxy", a term which only came into fashion in Cambridge as she was dying. Her theological and spiritual mentors were Austin Farrer, Gordon Phillips, Michael Ramsey, and her dear friend Percy Coleman who had been her confessor for over 50 years.

Born in 1925 in Peckham, the eldest of six children, Valerie Pitt was

strong socialist convictions. One of her grandfathers was active in the Amalgamated Engineering Union, while the other helped to lead the Bakers Union and addressed the bakers' strike in Trafalgar Square in 1913.

After school in Camberwell, she

went to St Hugh's College, Oxford, in 1943 to read English; and there, having been secretary of the Socratic Society, she was received into the An-glican Church. Her BLitt dissertation was on the roots of Sbelley's philosophy, and she wrote her only major published work, on Lord Tennyson, Tennyson Laureate (1962). After four years lecturing at

Cardiff, in 1953 she became a Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, but in 1958 returned to London, where she became a lecturer at Woolwich Polytechnic, an institution which was to be her academic home. under its various identities as Thames Polytechnic and the University of Greenwich, for almost 30 years. She was head of the Depart-



'I shall now leave the church'

ment of Liberal Studies and later of the School of Humanities, becoming one of the first "polytechnic professors" shortly after her retirement. It was the 1950s monthly journal Prism, the organ of a new breed of progressive Anglo-Catholics, some-

name well-known in radical church circles. Her Prism pamphlet The Church Commissioners for England (1967) was one of the earliest critiques of that curious body, while her satir-ical reflection on the cliché-ridden and patronising style of the 1958 Lambeth Conference, published in November 1958, is still relevant today.

In 1965 she was elected to the Church Assembly (the precursor of the General Synod), where, on 29 June 1967, she introduced a resolution calling for the admission of women to holy orders, a critical resolution which was not to see its fulfilment for many years. Her spontaneous speeches were awaited with delight and anticipation in that

somewhat dreary body. On one occasion when the late Gervase Duffield, a right-wing evan-gelical, was warning of the existence of a sinister and "well-organised faction" which was seeking to bring about disestablishment. Valerie Pitt times called the "angry young An- arose and asked for the name and

glicans", which made Valerie Pitt's address of the secretary so she could join it. It was in fact as a result of her membership of the commission on church and state (the Chadwick Commission) of 1970 that she became widely known in the Church. Her "memorandum of dissent", in which she argued the case for disestablishment, remains one of the formative documents in this

continuing debate. She could be a formidable member of any audience. On one occasion, in a south London church where a clergyman was using his sermon to defend the British nuclear deterrent, she suddenly rose, and announced to the electrified congregation: "Reverend Father, 1 do not propose to stay in this church and witness the misuse of this Christian pulpit for the promotion of militarism. I shall now leave the church, and the churchwardens will kindly inform me when the Mass resumes." The preacher was so taken aback that he lost the thread of his

sermon and retired in confusion as

She was deeply hurt by the behaviour of some of the overseas bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1998 and wrote a letter to the Church Times, asking "Can I myself - could any decent person - remain in the kind of church that [was] displayed to us? Do I want to?" Yet Valerie Pitt remained a woman of profound Christian faith, even if increasingly discontented with what she took to be the trivialising, the shallowness and the lack of serious thinking and debate in the Church of England. KENNETH LEECH

Valerie Joan Pitt, English scholar: born London 14 February 1925; Fellow, Newnham College, Cambridge 1953-58; Lecturer in Humanities. Woolwich Polytechnic (from 1970) Thames Polytechnic) 1958-62, Senior Lecturer 1962-66, Principal Lecturer in charge of humanities 1966-71, Head, School of Humanities 1971-86, Professor 1987; died London 4 January 1999.

Goro Yamaguchi

THE BAMBOO flute is central to of the shakuhachi was Goro Yam-Japanese traditional music. It is played vertically, with a notched mouthpiece and five finger holes four equidistant on top and an upper

one at the back for the thumb. It is called a shakuhachi, a name derived from the native measuring units defining the instrument's standard length, one shaku and eight hachi, a total of 54.5 centimetres. It is made only from a certain type of bamboo, the mandake (Phyllostachya bambusoides) which is sliced off near the root to create the swelling "bell" at the base. The inner bore is lacquered. There is no reed.

aguchi, who was born into a family of traditional musicians. His mother played the koto and the shamisen, and his father, Shiro Yamaguchi, was a leading virtuoso performer on the shakuhachi. He gave Goro his first lessons at the rather late age of 11.

His son showed such an amazing gift for the instrument and made such rapid progress that he was able to give his first concert at the age of 13, in 1947. This was despite the fact that the instrument is considered the most difficult to master. It takes a long time to acquire the characteristic head-shaking that produces One of the great modern masters its haunting mystical tones, its almost

animal, that sends shivers up and down the spine. Just to be able to produce a sound takes long practice.

The bamboo flute had come to Japan, like so much else, from China in the late seventh century and was included in Japanese court orchestras (gagaku) until the end of the ninth century. From the early 16th century it was associated with the Fuke sect of Zen Buddhism. The playing of the shakuhachi was regarded as a spiritual discipline by the priests and a source of enlightenment for the listeners.

The Zen religious practice has endured to the present day, but the burns of traditional music include the composers of Western culture in a January 1999.

ethereal voice, half-buman, half- bamboo flute has become secularised and is now often heard to sublime effect in works by contemporary composers both Japanese and Western. It has also gained popularity with classic jazz musicians. It is a musical feature of many chambara or samurai swordfight movies in which it is sometime used as a weapon of a non-lethal nature. The shakuhachi was used in Minoriz Miki's kabuki opera An Actor's Revenge (for which I wrote the libretto) when it was performed by the English Music Theatre at the Old Vic season in 1979.

Goro Yamaguchi's renowned al-

1968 Zen meditation music for the Nonesuch Explorer series, "A Bell Ringing in Empty Sky", the first widely commercialised Western recording of the shakuhachi repertoire, which attracted many Western fans, some of whom took up the instrument and even went to Japan to find teachers and, in exceptional cases, to receive instruction from the master himself. Some of those foreign performers are now stars in Japan and there are even groups of Western shakuhachi players.

In 1977, music from the album was included with work by the great

selection of Earth's music rocketed into space by Nasa's Voyager 2. In 1992 Yamaguchi was designated a "living national treasure" (nin-

teacher, and in the United States was the first visiting Artist in Residence to honour Wesleyan University's programme of classical Japanese music. Fittingly for a dedicated per-former of Zen music, his funeral took

place at Zenkoji Temple in Tokyo.

JAMES KIRKUP

gen kokuho). He was also a sensitive A little eccentric for the BBC

Macdonald was an active supuse of the term "mongol".

Alan Neil Macdonald, journalist Yamaguchi, shakuhachi and television erecutive born Lonplayer: born Tokyo 1933; married don 24 April 1945; married 1969

CRODEN REVIEW

Jim Peters

ry before its running on 7 August 1954 at the Empire Games in Vancouver, the marathon that had begun two hours become, thanks to Jim Peters, the stuff of athletics legend.

Bannister, who had run his fourminute mile earlier in the same year, did not disappoint his admirers and duly beat his great rival Landy in a truly memorable race. Barely 20 minutes later, as the temperature in the nonexistent shade rose to 75F against the rather incongruous backdrop of the snow-veined Grouse Mountains, tha 35-year-old Peters, favourite for the marathon gold medal, entered the sundrenched arena, weaving and swaying from side to side.

Sixteen mén had begun the race hut only six were to return. Peters, along with his countryman Stan Cox, took an early lead, passing the five-mile mark in 28min 15sec. The race wore on up the steep Kingsway and through the Vancouver streets, deserted thanks to viewers watching on television or in the stadium, but before long it was plain that all was not well. Peters passed the 20mile post in 1hr 48min but Cox, by now about 400 yards behind, was beginning to feel the effects of sunstroke.

There was a heat haze over the roads and the melting tarmac began shicking to his rubber-soled shoes. Just before the 25-mile mark Cox became so groggy he crashed into a lamp-post hut when he heard that Bannister had won the mile he got up and ran another 100 yards before the police led him away to a nearby ambulance.

Peters, who had set a new world record earlier that year and had covered more than 5,000 miles in training, struggled up the last two hills but arrived at the stadium gates in a dangerously dehydrated condition with the last 385 yards around the track to run. Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours and falling at least six times, he took 11 minutes to cover the first 200 yards.

Bannister, along with others at the track-side, could only watch, as they knew any attempt to assist Peters would disqualify him. Eventually though, after crossing the photo-finish line nearly 200 yards short of the actu-

IF THE "Mile of the Century" between al finish line, he could go no further and Britam's Roger Bannister and Auswith arms and legs still going through tralia's John Landy was the most the motions of running he was carried talked-of race in track and field histo- off to hospital to join Cox, who was fighting for his life.

Peters spent the next seven hnurs in an oxygen tent during which time no less earlier on the same afternoon was to than half a gallon of saline solution and dextrose was fed into him intravenously. As the treatment took effect, the two men began to recover. Joe McGhee, meanwhile, an RAF officer from Scotland, had fallen over five times during the race and called for an amhulance, but when he heard that Peters and Cox were out of the race he got up and finished the course to win.

The psychological and physical re-actions Peters suffered were so marked that he was advised by doctors to retire from athletics and he never ran again, although he always maintained he was robbed of the gold medal in Vancouver as the course was longer than the regulation 26 miles 385 yards.

Those appeals fell on deaf ears, but the Duke of Edinburgh awarded him an honorary gold medal on Christmas Eve of the same year for his gallantry, and

Staggering and clawing his way along on all fours. he took 11 minutes to cover 200 yards

last year, to mark his 80th hirthday, Peters was proud to receive the Duke's good wishes once again.

Born in Homerton, east London, hut raised in Becontree in Essex, Peters was a useful schoolboy cricketer and footballer before taking up athletics. The outhreak of the Second World War interrupted his progress. Peters joining the RAMC, but afterwards, and by oow a qualified optician, he returned to running, although he was disappointed to finish only ninth in the 10,000m at the 1948 Olympics in London.

Approaching the age of 30, he was tempted to retire, but his coach persuaded him to take up marathon run- from Windsor to Chiswick, Peters daughter); died 9 January 1999.



Peters reaches the end of his Empire Games marathon, Vancouver, 1954

ning and engaged him in a series of innovative training techniques focusing on speed and strength routines. In 1952 he set the first of four world records for the distance with a time of 2:20:42.2 hut failed to finish at the Helsinki Olympics

owing to cramp. The following year, however, with a running style that grew more and more exaggerated and led at times to blood seeping from his torso as his thumb-nail tore into his vest, he set two more world records and won four of the world's largest marathon races. Then, on 26 June the following year, with a time of 2:17:39.4 in the Polytechnic Marathon

became the first man to run under 2hr 20min for the marathon.

In his later years Peters remained in touch with his cluh Essex Beagles and was a Rotary Club member near his home in Thorpe Bay in Essex. Prior to his death he had been fighting cancer for six years, and of those who witnessed his heroics in Vancouver or were among the millions to see it later on Movietope News, few would have been surprised that his final battle lasted so long.

ADAM SZRETER

James Peters, runner: born London 24 October 1918; married (one son, one

HISTORICAL NOTES

MALCOLM BROWN

The long, slow road to Civvy Street

THE COMMON perception has it that the First World War came to its sensationally dramatic halt on 11 November 1918 and that that was effectually that: end of fighting, end of story. On the contrary, the ceasefire was followed hy an unhappy coda which had many in high places wondering whether the Bolshevik plague then sweeping the Continent might overleap the Channel, with as its prime agent the very men who had won the recent astonishing victory.

"Keep the home fires burning / Till the boys come home": Ivor Novello's famous 1915 song was hut ooe factor among many that produced a powerful urge among soldiers everywhere to get back to "Civvy Street" immediately their joh was done. Writing at 11.01 on Armistice Day an infantry sergeant in France stated in a letter home: "The question on everybody's tongue is 'When shall we get home?"

The answer was slow in coming and deeply unsatisfactory when it came. The British government announced as its top priority the release of so-called "pivotal men": those who could be slotted back instantly into the running of the nation's economy. But this in effect meant: last in, first out. The earliest in uniform, those who by definition were the furthest removed from their pre-war civilian skills, were bitterly resentful. One officer marooned in far-off Persia

duration has expired and all who joined when I did, 'The First Hundred Thousand, are surely entitled to our discharge first." It would he many angry months before

such as he got home. nored the regulations. A Royal Engineers CO demohilised his companies strictly according to length of service abroad, which all concerned thought much the fairer way. He later commented: "I am sure that every officer who demohilised a Unit ought to have had the DSO. It was the

hardest job of the war." Eventually the Govern-ment conceded, but not before a surge of protest that in some cases produced that unthinkable consequence: soldiers refusing orders point-blank, even coming out on strike. On 3 January 1919 at Folkestone 3.000 men ordered to parade for embarkation for France flatly refused to do so. There was a similar demonstration on the following day at Dover.

Meanwhile there was a scatter of smaller disturbances in France. In Le Havre a 38-year old Warrant Officer with eight years of service in India behind him and a Mention in Despatches for gallantry in Gallipoli found himself branded a "Bolshie" for taking a prominent part in agitation for demobilisation. His battalion was lectured by the CO on Bolshevism. The Warrant Officer commented in his diary: "British Pruswrote to his wife: "My con-

tract of three years or the sianism afraid of being upset." Further afield troops were still mounting massed meetings of protest in Egypt as late as April.

The Australians managed their demohilisation with rather greater success, because their commander, Sir John Monash, upheld the principle of "First come, first go". "Our demob is going on very steadily," wrote a "Digger" corporal in the spring of 1919. "The system is very fair, and upheld owing to that fairness by all the boys."

With hindsight it is clear that political motives played virtually no part in the British soldiers' disaffection: when Tommy said he wanted to go back to Blighty, he meant precisely that A Royal Engineers sergeant would later comment: "It seemed as though the whole Army had become imbued with a spirit of revolt against the system which had held the individual for so long." But revolt did not mean that the soldiers were revolutionary: rather they were just "bloody-minded" at what they saw as a palpable injustice. In sum, they were far more likely to sing that favourite, heart-felt Tommies' dirge, "I want to go home", than ever to hurst into the "International". But they had made their point: they demanded, and finally got, fair play.

Malcolm Brown is the author of The Imperial War Museum Book of 1918, Year of Victory' (Sidgwick &

Fabrizio De André

FABRIZIO DE ANDRE was the anarchist son of a wealthy industrialist, a native of Genoa who preferred Sardinia, and a singer-songwriter who was very sparing with his words: "I write songs and I speak." De Andre pointed out, out drinking a litre of whisky to steady whenever he came under pressure to do either of these things, "only if I have something to say."

In a musical career spanning 35 years, he came up with enough to fill only 19 LPs, including "best ofs" and live recordings. What he said, however, hoved generations of young Italians, and had a profound effect on the nation's

song-writing tradition. With his jowly, deeply lined face, constantly half-obscured by smoke from a never-ending string of cigarettes, De Andre would not have looked out of place as a night-club crooner. But his intense, mesmerising ballads - of the outcast and downcast, of war and religion, of the iniquities of power and capitalist might -

would have jarred in that atmosphere. Besides, such close and regular contact I couldn't even get up on a stage withmyself beforehand," he confessed. Yet music was the driving force in the

life of De André who, as a teenager in the 1950s, would hawk his compositions around record producers in Milan. In 1958, at the age of 18, his first single "Nuvole borocche" ("Baroque Clouds") was released, sinking more or less without trace. He limped from medical studies to humanities and then law, playing his guitar in small-time Genoese bands and writing songs. Then in 1965, he penned "La canzone di Marinella" ("Marinella's Song"), which was recorded hy the female singing star Mina. With L600,000 of royalties in his pocket. De André ditched university, and launched himself into a full-time musical career.

Unlike other popular political singersongwriters of the 1960s and 1970s, De with the public would have been hell for André made no secret of his intellectuthis very private performer. "For years, al leanings. "Tutti morimmo a stento" ("We All Died of Hardship", 1968) was a homage to the French poet Louis Villon, the album Non ol denoro, né all'amore ne al cielo ("Not For Mooey or Love or the Sky", 1971) was inspired hy Edgar Lee Master's Spoon River Anthology, and Nuvole ("Clouds", 1990) drew on Aristophanes.

His fascination with folk traditions led him to hlend Sardinian and native American music in his 1981 album Fobrizio De André. The musician David Byrne was deeply impressed - and influenced - by his Creuza de mã ("Mule Track by the Sea", 1984), songs inspired by Mediterranean culture and sung in Genoese dialect, which pre-dated the World Music boom.

Ever a champion of the underdog, De Andre sang his support for gypsies, sui-

cide cases and illegal immigrants. He lambasted hypocritical clients of prostitution, and the death penalty. And, for a while, he sympathised with bandits in his adopted home in Sardinia. Uotil, that is, they kidnapped him and his wife Dori Ghezzi in 1978, keeping them chained to a tree in the island's desolate heartlands for four months. The irony of the anarchista buono (the good anarchist) being ransomed for L600m - a vast sum at the time - hy his wealthy capitalist of a father was lost on oo one. De André, however, shrugged it off, and characteristically, turned the experience into "Hotel Supramoote", ooe of his bestloved works.

ANNE HANLEY

Fabrizio De André, singer-songwriter: born Genoa, Italy 18 February 1940; married Dori Ghezzi (one son, one daughter); died Milan 11 January 1999.

to mark the quatercentenary

of the death of Edmund

British Museum: Timothy

Clark, "Harunghu and the

Birth of the Japanese Colour

Wallace Collection, London

W1: Patricia Falkner, "Dutch

Spenser", 1.10pm.

Print", 11.30am.

Paintings", 1pm.

County court's contempt jurisdiction

A COUNTY court judge had jurisdiction to initiate proceedings for committal for contempt of court of his own motion for breach of a contact order in family proceedings.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of a mother against the dismissal of her application to strike out committal proceedings for contempt of court initiated by the judge of his own motion in respect of her breach of an order (or contact between her children and their father.

The judge had taken the view that, although the father was not contemplating taking steps to commit the mother for being in hreach of the order, it was his responsibility to ensure that the issue be tried. He had himself drafted particulars of the hreach, and a notice was drawn "upon the direction of the court of its own motion" that the mother show cause why she should not be found to be in breach in failing to hand the children over "in a fit and proper state to have contact with the father".

The mother applied to strike out the notice on the grounds that it was not within the proper exercise of judicial power or discretion for a judge to issue such a notice of his own motion and/or that the matters complained of could not amount to

application. Leave to appeal proceedings were stayed.

i) whether the judge had power to initiate committal proceedings of

contempt of court. The judge dismissed that On the appeal, the following

was granted and the committal issues arose:

his ewn motion;

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

14 JANUARY 1999

M (a minor) Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward) 16 December 1998

ii) if so, how that power should be exercised, and whether the judge had been in error in the instant

Dennis Sharpe for the mother; the father in person; Alice Robinson (instructed by the Attorney General) as amicus curiae.

Lord Justice Ward said that the judge had had jurisdiction to act of his own motion. Pursuant to section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984, the circuit judge might make any order which could be made in the High Court if the proceedings were in the High Court.

There was no doubt that the High Court had power to make an order of committal of its own motion when the contempt was committed in the face of the court. Further, RSC Order 52, rule 5 was wide enough to apply to the present case had it been in tha High Court and, by virtue of section 38 of the 1984 Act, it applied in the county court as well.

In the case of civil contempt the court had to bear in mind the extent to which knowledge of the breach had become a

matter of public concern. amounting to scandal capable of diminishing the authority of the court such as might lead to an increased flouting of its orders, and also the extent to which some interest other than that of the litigant was in need of protection.

The contempt had to he

clear as well as flagrant. Pursuing a committal ex mero motu was a highly exceptional course to follow, particularly in family cases. The judge should always take time to pause for reflection, and should give an opportunity for the Official Solicitor to be invited to represent the child, or to report on the child's position. If the Official Solicitor saw a potential conflict, but the contempt was none the less clear and flagrant, there was no reason why the Attorney General should not be asked to prosecute the committal as amicus curiae.

All remedies should be exhausted before tha weapon of committal was wielded. The danger in initiating a committal which the affected party did not seek was that the judge was at risk of being seen to be acting to preserve his own dignity and to punish for the affront to him. That would distort the justification for the condign power of committal, which existed only to serve the ends

of justice. In the instant case the judge had misdirected himself and was wrong to have proceeded oo his own motion, and the committal application would accordingly be struck out.

KATE O'HANLON. Barrister

TOMILINSON: Lucy Margaret, died suddenly at home 7 Janu-ary 1999 aged 59. Funeral at Worcester Crematurium, 21 Ja

un espera

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

BIRTHS,

& DEATHS

DEATHS

MARRIAGES

The Princess Royal presents
Worldaware's 10th anniversary
Business Awards at the Royal
Institution, London W1; as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, attends a Neighbourhood
Safety Partnership Luncheon at
Claridge's Hotel, London W1;
and, as Patron, British Quality
Foundation, attends a Founder
Members Recention at St Members Reception at St mes s Palace

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr D. W. de Vos and Miss S. L. Pullen The engagement is announced between Dirk, son of Mr W. de Vos, of Johannesburg, South Africa. and Mrs A. de Vos, of Cape Town, and Samantha, daughter of the late Mr Lester Pullen and of Mrs Angela

Comptroller to the Queen Mother, 68; Professor Sir 90; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 70; Miss Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, 57; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 65; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellte. servative Party, 91; Lady Byford, former President. Conservative and Unionist 76; Miss Faye Dunaway. actress, 58; Mr Michael

Pullen, of Nassau, Bahamas. BIRTHDAYS Captain Sir Alastair Aird.

Melville Arnott, cardiologist, former Vice-Chairman, Con-Association, 58; Lord Catto, president, Morgan Grenfell, Foster MP, 35; Miss Maina

International, 59; Mr Brian Hardie, cricketer, 49; Sir Martin Holdgate, President. Zoological Society of London, 69; Mr Jack Jones, singer, 61; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, former Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, 71; Mr John Lever, Headmaster, Canford School, 47; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 73; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 59; Sir Neil Pritchard, former ambassador to Thailand, 88; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, 71; Mile Caterina Valente, guitarist and singer, 68; Mr Bill Wer-

GAZETTE

Gielgud, ballerina, 54; Miss

Andrée Grenfell, former

managing director, Glemby

Scottish Hydro-Electric, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

berniuk, snooker player, 43;

Sir John Woodcock, former

Constabulary, 67; Mr Roger Young, chief executive,

HM Chief Inspector of

Births: Benedict Arnold, soldier and traitor, 1741; Dr Albert Schweitzer, missionary surgeon, 1875; Hugh Lofting, writer, 1886; Hal

Roach, film producer and director, 1892; Sir Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton, photographer and stage designer, 1904. Deaths: Edmond Halley, astronomer, 1742: Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), writer. 1898; Humphrey DeForest Bogart, actor, 1957; Anais Nin, writer and poetess, 1977. On this day: the Great Frost Fair began on the Thames, 1205; the law requiring motorists to wear seat-belts was made permanent, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony Pucci, St Barbasymas or Barbascemin, St Datius, St Felix of Nola, St Kentigern or Mungo, St Macrina the Elder, The Martyrs of Mount Sinai and St Sava.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Portraits (ii): Van Dyck, Equestrian Portrait of Charles I', 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Bowles, "Rococo and the Decorative Arts", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liza Vaughan-Hughes, "A Golden Quill: a programme

LEONARD **CHESHIRE** Lord Puttnam delivered the Leonard Cheshire Lecture yesterday at the Stationers

Hall, London EC4. His sub-

ject was "Inclusion or Exclu-

sion? - disabled people in tomorrow's society". Mr Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir David Goodall, Chairman of Leonard Cheshire (the Leonard Cheshire Foundation), also spoke. Among those attending were: those attending were:
Sir Patrick Walker, Leonard Cheshire
International Chairman; Mr Bryan Dutton, Director General, Leonard
Cheshire; Mr Romald Travers, Leonard
Cheshire Coiden Jubilee Chairman; Mr
David Grayson, Chairman of the National Oisability Council; Mr Richard Gotch,
Chief Executive, Arthritis Care; Mr Bert
Massie, Director, Rodur, Mr Bill
McClimot, Chairman, UREICA; The Hon
Sir Peter Ramsbotham; Ms Sue Sayer,
Chief Executive, United Response; Mr
James Strachan, Chief Executive, RNID.

breasts always aronse thoughts of an eminent Powell - not the novelist or the late politician, hat the Supreme Court instice whose name was used for them by Gore Vidal in Myron (1975). It was a protest

against censorship. Those

two full syllables were well

AMONG THE well-read,

Words

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE rehnquist, n.

wakes to find that Myron "has not only removed the delicate honeypot of every real American boy's dream

rehnquist has got to go!" In 1987, Vidal replaced it with "cock" - less prescient than usual, for this crony of Nixon and Reagan, William Rehoquist, is now Chief Justice: such is destiny, his star's progress, that he deliherates over President chosen. Meanwhile, Myra but replaced it with A Clinton's errant relinquist.

Thing! A ghastly long thick

tubular object ... This

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephooe 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number. Angry with secular Britain, Muslims burnt The Satanic Verses. Ten years later, both sides have learnt respect. By Paul Vallely



Bradford rises above the ashes

copy of Salman Rushdie's novel, The Satanic Verses, and hurned it in front of Bradford City Hall. Hardly anyone noticed at the time. But two weeks afterwards, in Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini declared a fatwa to the effect that Rushdie's blaspberny warranted the death penalty.

Suddenly the Bradford book burning became a symbol of a new, oppressive, obscurantist threat to Western values of tolerance and freedom of speech. Sn much so that when Iran lifted the death threat last year, Rusbdie was asked at the ensuing press conference wbether he felt free to visit Bradford. In the intervening years there have been considerable changes in the Muslim community, and in society's attitude to it, as I found when I went back to the city to see those who had put the match to the offending pages. Bradford's Muslims, it transpires, have changed. But for better or worse?

The most impressive of Rusbdie's opponeots a decade ago was an angry young man named Shabbir Akhtar. He had arrived in Bradford from Pakistan at the age of eight but had gone on to study philosophy at Cambridge and had wrong-footed many in the liberal camp by using their own language and methodology to argue in defence of fundamentalist certainties.

The received wisdom was that Muslims had no idea what they were unleashing when they lit the pages of Rushdie's novel. "The people involved were almost certainly ignorant of the tremendously emotive effect this would have on those brought up in the dominant Western culture, with its memories of Nazi Germany, and a deeply held belief in free speech." So said the report written after the 1995 Manningham riots, which brought Muslim indignation to a new pitch in Bradford six years after the Rushdie affair broke. In India and Pakistan, it said, the burning of flags, books and effigies are common forms of protest. "There is little understanding, within large sections of the Muslim communities, of the effect this incident had on white opinion," it said.

It was not entirely true. "I thought there would be outrage," says Shabbir Akhtar, sitting in the front room of his small terraced home in Manningham, "but we were impotent and needed a dramatic ritual protest. The comparisons with Hitler were inappropriate: he was in power and burned many books; we were powerless and burned one copy:" The media portrayal of the burning as

19th century, literature judged to be seditious or blasphemous was hurned in lieu of the author, by the public hangman.

a dark and medieval act was ill-judged too:

"The real resentment was not against the act but at these 'foreigners' taking



In 1989, Muslims rallied against alleged blasphemy. Today, Abu Hamza, inset, represents Muslims still at odds with Britain Guzelian, Martin Godwin

liberties in someone else's country." Far from being an assault on the values of liberal democracy, be insists, Muslims were appealing to them. "Freedom of speech is not absolute; society is happy to constrain it to prevent racial violence. But many secular liberals suspended their values because they were dealing with a culture of which they had an instinctive dislike," he says. "They betrayed their own commitment to trying to understand the other point of view. They became liberal fundamentalists."

come. But the issue has ceased to be a live one, says one of the others prominent on the Bradford Council of Mosques in the book-burning days. "The Rushdie affair surfaced two issues," says Ishtiaq Ahmed now director of the city's Racial Equality Council. "One was the right of minorities to live according to their faith without being ridiculed. The other was that writers and publishers must have a sense of responsibility in exercising their freedom of speech. Both these have been acknowledged, by and large. The rest of society is

sbowing a much greater sensitivity."

This, coupled with the rise of a new gen-

eration of professionals in business, edu-

cation and the civic life of the city, is making

Muslims more frank and open about deal-

ing with issues such as the role of women

in Islam. "A recent series of articles in the

forced marriages was written in terms we

can live with." Ishtiaq says. "We know we

have to face these issues in the lnng-term

relationship between the Muslim com-

munity and the rest of society.

'Now there are three groups: one very religious and introspective, another secular and pleasure-seeking, while the third drifts in the middle'

Ten years on, be feels there would be no need to burn the book now. "The whole Rushdie affair was about exclusion," he says. "Today we would have other ways of protesting. The English intelligentsia is much more open now - inter-faith groups, academics, TV producers, newspaper edin England, as recently as the end of the itors and others are more open to listen- Telegraph and Argus [the local paper] on ing. Then people thought the Muslim protest was mad, now they just think it was mistaken; in a culture where religion is taken so lightly, that's a big step forward."

Not that Rushdie should expect a wel-

seen as healthy and to be cherished, not hidden or condemned. There are signs that this is a two-way

process, with the rest of society responding Locally Muslims have more influence in the main political parties. Nationally the Government has conceded the principle that Muslim schools merit state funding just as Catholic or Jewish ones do. No one is saying the problems are over. But ask Khadim Hussain, a Bradford bus driver, what is the oiggest difficulty facing Bradford Muslims and he replies: The city centre is dving businesses moving out, whole streets are emoty of shoppers now."

There is an increased willingness to

talk about all this openly," he says, "and to

acknowledge diversity instead of trying to

This - like unemployment, poor housing, overcrowding and underachievement in schools - may hit the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities disproportionaten hard. But these are problems shared with the rest of society. There may be a culture of desperation, says Shabbir Akhtar. but it's not restricted to Muslims.

One of the things which has struck him most on his return to Bradford after 10 years is the divisions which have developed fragmenting ways. But there is a new conin that younger generation which speaks with a Yorkshire accent.

Before there was one group, all strugworlds. Now there are three groups: one be much reduced.

very religious and introspective, another that has become completely secular and pleasure-seeking, while the third drifts in the middle."

affect an artificial unity. Diversity is now The same division is apparent to Ishtiaq Ahmed. "About 10 to 15 per cent have hecome very devout and more militant," be estimates. "They are vocal and uncompromising and have difficulties with their own community."

At the other extreme, he estimates there are another 15 per ceot who have dropped their faith and bought the Western materialist package. In the middle are the 70 per cent who have weak links with the faith - who profess but don't practice, who might fast but don't pray and who only really feel Muslim in response to the foreign policy of the West in Bosnia,

Afghanistan or the Gulf. Currently, they are indignant over the Government's response to the detention of five British Muslims in Yemen - which they compare unfavourably with its reaction at the trial of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia.

The older generation is uncertain what to do with children who are not just growing away from them, but doing so in such fidence among the Bradford Muslims which cannot be denied. It would be foolish to predict that there will be no more gling with the tensions between two burning of books, but the odds on it must

POETIC LICENCE

THE OZYMANDIAS CLOCK

A desert site is being sought to locate a giant clock which will run for 10,000 years. The aim of the project is to build a global monument that will stimulate people to think beyond the normal concept of time. Sites in Egypt, Jerusalem, China and Nevada are being considered.

The first one thousand years or so Were harder to portray The clock would move its hands each year And tick just once a day

It chimed its first millennium One red and gold-leaf desert dawn As rusted derricks, armnured cars And tanks uncovered by the wind Lay useless, their own monument To centuries long out of mind

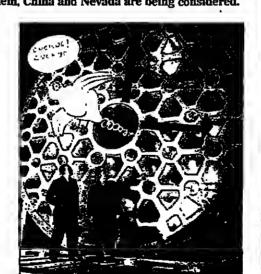
Above the desert, shooting wars Still littered up the Milky Way Rich lovers from a private plane Took photographs and drank champagne Made love upon the scorpion sand Grew old and never came again

Once every twenty years it rained Then flowers sprang up for a day

And as the sands were washed away Numberless craft took to the sky Whose occupants gazed down to see An ancient caravanserai Its faded Pepsi Cola sign And petrol pumps millennia-dry

Later, a psychic railway.ran Disgorging tourists every night Pale ghosts of men stared at its face Then glided off in single file While silent in the moonlight there, Emaciated desert dogs Ears down and cringing at the sight Slunk out into the desert night

The clock still moved its hands each year And ticked just once a day The first one thousand years or so Were harder to portray



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COMPANIES COURT
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Voice personals

Grin and bare it (if you must)

Everyone's stripping off these days. Here's 10 ways to satisfy those naked ambitions. By Emma Cook

is no longer a valid question. It's where you do it, with whom and what with. In this month's Tatler, the millennium's most talented are united by more than their achievements and aquiline features. They're practically naked. But taking your kit off can be an imprecise art. When Abigail Saxon, a BBC producer, streaked at a Christmas party she almnst lost her joh. Proof that any fool can do it, but few can get away with it. So here's what you need to

remember.. 1) Only do it if you're posh Don't be fooled; nudity is not the great equaliser. If you've got a double-barrel name and a degree from Oxford, you can get them nut for the boys with im-punity. Flashing what it takes won't tarnish a high-brow literary career. See Amanda Foreman; historian and Whitbread finalist, in Tatler. Her books got a full frontal but she didn't (she stands behind them

naked). Smart. 2) Never go the whole way See Christine Keeler and that chair, and never opt for an Earnes. Unless your naked ambitioo stretches to implants and a Channel Five chat show avoid Page Three.

3) Style over content Think tasteful. Glossy magazines not tablnids. Remember prop is really another word for product placement; see Amanda Foreman and that biography. 4) Stay upmarket

Arty films and posing for Lucian Freud is acceptable. As Irena Brignull, script editor for Shakespeare In Love and another one of Tatler's "bare geniuses" says. "I was extremely







flattered to be asked to be in- Would they still have said "No" cluded among a list of people I

5) Don't do it if you're over 40 Amanda Foreman told one newspaper, "You're only young once and I'm certainly not going to do it when I'm 40." Would that put Totler editor Jane Procter off stripping for her magazine? "Well, I'm over 40 years old," she says. "So the golden rule is I'm not allowed." 6) Don't do it if you're

under 20 Timing is all. Teenage glamour shnts will haunt you forever. 7) Nudity is a girl thing Naked men just aren't so in demand. Ewan McGregor was desperate to strip off on stage

hut the producers refused.

if Ewan's co-star, Lou Gish, had made the same offer? 8) Don't do it if you've got a boyfriend

When Gwyneth Paltrow insisted on stripping for a love scene with Joseph Fiennes in Shakespeare In Love, ber boyfriend Ben Affleck, now ex, objected. 9)Don't do it while you're shopping

This week naturists wanted to shop at Tesco. If you do play the nude card, a glarnorous setting. helps - the frozen goods section of your local supermarket is to be avoided.

10) Just don't do it PR supremo Max Clifford says: "Nine times out of 10 it cheapens anyone who does it."

is tat fathers and sons hug. adshaking men are allow hu on special occasions. I fuerals or weddings. But re oberving how men react the meet has thrown up werdly different behaviour here's the slap on the she thre's the whack on the he evn a bit of hair-mussing. a temendously peculiar one.

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ye Lips no. (Secret): as an ; Enlishwoman, handshake

ut as far as men go, probal avrage state of play at the m

mar I run (s People Contract Paul Vallely

It is every parent's nightmare to lose a child. Geneviève Jurgensen lost two in a car crash. How did she cope? By Louise France

'I know I will never recover'

he French newspaper headline is hrutally informative: 50 people die on roads in France on New Year's Eve, it says. Geneviève Jurgensen, a 52-year-old journalist and thor, rolls her eyes heavenwards. A ised, well dressed woman, sitting in her egant high-ceilinged apartment in Paris. e's all too familiar with the statistics. lineteen years ago her daughters. lathilde and Elise, were killed on a lrench road. They were seven and four. hey lost their lives before they'd lost more han two milk teeth.

In Britain there are 3,500 deaths on the pads annually. In France the figure is 9,000. Geneviève Jurgensen knows precisely bw the families of the new year fatalities ull be feeling. For them there will be, she sys, with a sad shrug of her shoulders, "lell and flames".

Eleven years after her daughters died, Gneviève Jurgensen started writing a

'My first thought was, this is beyond human strength. This is beyond what I can face'

bek about Mathilde and Elise and how she ard ber husband, Laurent, survived their daths. Lucid, moving and beautifully witten. The Disappearance was a bestseer in France and has just been publised in Britain.

he smiles, and says she would prefer to alk about something else. "I love to lauh," she says, "I am, naturally, a bappy peron. I'd much rather talk about Shakespere and poetry. But now I know - and penaps it took writing this book to admit it that whatever happens to me is related only children's deaths. I have abandoed the idea that one day I will recover. The is now how I understand life."

on 30 April 1980 her daughters were beig driven to see their paternal grandmther by Geneviève's sister-in-law and hebusband, Aline and Christian. The couples baby sat between the two sisters in th back seat. A 22-year-old Belgian, who ha been drinking, overtook them and ranned into the side of the car. Aline conorthe hard shoulder, only to find that the edision had catapulted Mathilde and Ese out of the open window. They were aleady dead when Christian found them, Imetres apart on the tarmac.

That night when the telephone rang thir mother thought nothing of it. She was asent-mindedly glancing at herself in the nirror when she heard that her two childrn, her only children, had been killed. Softshe shut the girls' bedroom door. No one epects their children to die before they o. Least of all do parents expect to have teir whole family wiped out. "My first tought was, this is heyond human srength," she says now. "This is beyond that I can face."

People said that one day she would write een a way of mastering the pain and I idn't want that I loved them so much I

idn't want the pain to fade." But in 1991, when a friend who hadn't



met her daughters asked her about them, she sensed in him a humanity to which she responded. They agreed that she should write him letters about the lives of Mathilde and Elise, the things they said, how their characters were beginning to form, the way she buttoned up their red and blue raincoats on the day she saw them for the last time. Letters, too, about their deaths, and about the "hell and flames" that came afterwards. She wrote the letters when she felt like it, in longhand and on whatever triled the vehicle and brought it to a halt notepaper came to hand. Her friend did not reply hut he treasured each one and when, two years later, he remarked that they had begun to sound more like a diary than an exploration of mourning, they decided that it was time to stop. These letters became the basis for her book.

Almost a year to the day after the tragedy - with "unspeakable luck" as she puts it - she gave hirth to her third daughter. Elvire. Later another child came along, a boy. Elvire is 17 now; her brother, Gauthier, is 14. Without them it is too awful to speculate where Geneviève would he today. With them, she is remarkably articulate on life touched hy death.

"The first year is the worst," she says. "You go through each of the four seasons remembering what you were doing the year bout it, hut for 10 years she was before." She saw her children's faces repulsed by the idea. "Writing would have wherever she went. She would hellow Mathilde's name just to hear the very sound of it again. She would look at teenagers in wonderment and ask herself how their mothers had been able to keep them alive.



Geneviève Jurgensen: 'The first year is the worst.' Above, the daughters Alistoir Miller she'll never forget, Elise, left, and Mathilde

Feverishly, she says, she read every let-ther, the Jurgensens discovered that they ter of condolence. For people who were too embarrassed to approach the couple, she has only scorn. The parent of one of her daughter's classmates would stand hehind her in the queue at the baker's hut never spoke to her again - "It was more important for her not to look foolish than to go out to a mother who no longer had any

children." It still angers her. Robbed of their roles as mother and fa-



now needed to be parented. "We relied on friends, who would say, 'You're coming with us to the theatre tonight'. Or 'No. you can't go home alone"." One of the worst aspects was the feeling that people put them on a pedestal. "We were like statues, honoured for our hravery. Yet we felt so alone. We needed people to be themselves and yet

they could not be." Faced with such devastation many re-

lationships would have collapsed, but the marriage has remained strong. Laurent and Geneviève met in their early twenties "It was love at first sight" - and it was the desperate desire to return to the happiness they had known with their young family that sustained them in the early Eighties. "Both of us were conscious that we would have preferred it if one of us had died rather than the girls... But we had been very happy, and happy people are better equipped to start again. We were des-perate to have children and find the same happiness again. Making love when you

want another child is close to instinct. We

would turn to each other frantically, cling-

ing to one another." Geneviève needs people to know what she is feeling, whether she is happy or sad. Laurent, an architect, is more private (though pleased that his daughters were being remembered by his wife's book he was acutely apprehensive about the exposure). But they instinctively agreed about the way to mourn - "without restraint" as she puts it - and this bond sustained them. "Although you have to remember that your sorrow is not the only

one. You live with someone who is sad too." She is still lost for words to describe her feelings about the man who drove the car that caused the accident. He was fined, hut allowed to keep his licence. In 1983 Genevieve set up a pressure group with another mother who had lost her daughter in a traffic accident. Drink-driving and speeding are part of the culture on the roads in

France but the campaign has been in-strumental in reducing fatalities from 13,000 a year to the current figures. She took part in every debate about "la violence routière" (road violence) - a phrase that the charity invented, and which has become part of the French language. In 1992 she had a private meeting with President Mitterrand to instigate a points system on French driving licences. The nation's truck-drivers went on strike in protest, but a law was finally passed. The group also won a campaign to lower the allowable levels of alcohol in hlood.

Nearly 20 years on, Geneviève worries about the effect of the deaths on her two living children. Looking back on Elvire's early life she believes that although she saved her sanity, it was too soon to have another child. "For months I was in another world still," It wasn't until Gauthier came along that she began to recover.

If Mathilde, the eldest, had lived she'd he 26 now. Sometimes her mother imagines what her life would have been like. She'd have met a man she loved by now,

'I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover. This is now how I understand life'

she thinks, just as Geneviève did. Perhaps she'd be getting married. She watches her friends preparing for their daughters' weddings and wonders what it would have been like for her. "I think Elvire feels a pressure to accomplish the good things in life for three girls - herself and her two sisters, I apologise. But I this is the mother she has. She can't change it."

Gauthier started reading his mother's book but put it down after three pages. "He said it was just too sad." Elvire has read it, and set up a young person's version of Geneviève's pressure group. Is sbe proud? "Proud, but annoyed too," she says. "We've given enough. I would like to move on."

And indeed, every time a new day dawns their lives do move on. But it's difficult. Four years ago they moved across the Seine to their apartment near the Eiffel Tower. It was a wrench. "Every tree, every corner, every person who knew me knew my children too. Now I have no reminders." Thirteen months ago Genevieve's mother died, and with her an-

other link with the past. She expects that in about five years' time Gauthier will leave home and then she and Laurent will be alone again. "I worry that it is then that my older children will come back into my memory," she says. "I still miss them, hut I am no longer sure what I miss. It was all so long ago and they were

"I feel as though someone is faintly crying inside me. In a way my life is waiting for the day when I can meet them again. When I die I can take my place beside them.

"I do have a happy life, however gross it seems to say it. But if I went back to being 15 again and someone said, this is the deal: You will have two children; you will lose them; you will have a happy life afterwards I'd have said 'No thank you. Keep it all'."

'The Disappearance' (Flamingo, £12.99). Geneviève Jurgensen will speak at the French Institute, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7, 19 Jan at 6.30pm. Free

Is it OK for men to kiss each other?

Ion is friends with a man who has two children and who believes in hugs and kisses for both boys and girls. Jon's wife kisses everyone when they meet; Jon kisses everyone except the father, who he shakes by the hand. Is there any other gesture he could make to show closeness, without embarrassing them both?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

he reason that deciding how to greet people can make one cringe these days is simply because the customs are in a complete state of flux. Fifty years ag sons called their fathers "Sir" an shook their hands on meeting; not bugs between men are commorplace. If my friends are anything to p hy, kisses on the cheeks, and eve kisses on the lips are quite thenorm, though I have to say that whin it comes to lips I usually avet my mouth at the last minute, like a baby when you try to offer it a faal mouthful of food. Cheeks, yes Lips, no. (Secretly, as an uptight Erdishwoman, handshakes suit

jut as far as men go, probably the aveage state of play at the moment is fat fathers and sons hug, and so n oyoung men and close friends. hu on special occasions, like at fuerals or weddings. But recently, oberving how men react when thy meet has thrown up some werdly different behaviour.

There's the slap on the shoulder. thre's the whack on the back, or evn a bit of hair-mussing. (This is a temendously peculiar one. Imag-

ine if you were a woman, and a girlfriend came up to you, extended her painted fingernails, and proceeded to muss up your hair. You'd be livid. However, some men see it as a sign of affection) Then there's an extraordinary

American meeting ritual, in which,

one American punches the other on the chest, and the other reels back jokingly, bouncing about, making boxing movements. Utterly baffling. Some reasons given for our formality have included the fact that we live in a cold climate, and our beastly weather doesn't encourage large,

expansive gestures; or that we live

on an island and are crucially aware

of our limited space. But those reasons don't wash with me. I think the great anxiety of Englishmen is that if they embrace as drawing him a bit closer and too closely they might be thought to be gay. Continentals, who are much easier with their sexuality or at least appear to be, have far fewer hangups about greeting other men. They kiss each other to bits, bug, and even long after the greeting is over, one may still have his arm around the

shoulder of the other. Funnily enough, even the most rigid of Englishmen can cope with this behaviour from a Continental.

They know exactly what it means, and never fear a surreptitious stroke on the bottom while the hug is taking place.

is that he should simply tell himself he's a handshaker, always has been and always will he. A hug and a kiss is fairly meaningless; Jon's real love and affection for his friend will always show in other, more practical ways. Or, if he wants to become a new man, he should start slowly. At the next meeting, use two hands to shake his friend's one; at the next shake his hand but put a hand on his lower arm. Then shake his hand while putting the other hand on his shoulder and giving him a tremendous pat. At the next meeting, shake his friend's hand at the same time patting him on the back.

Then it is really up to his friend to draw closer and, before he knows it, be drawn into a hug.

Of course, if they don't meet regularly it would be about 2005 before they reach this stage. But by then the customs of bow to greet other will, hopefully, be thoroughly sorted out.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Do what feels right As a prickly teenager I spent the summer with a close-knit Scottish family. The father drove me to catch a train for school, dropping off his sons on the way. They kissed goodbye openly, yet in my world, at that time, even mother's kisses were something to be wary about. At the station I extended my hand. He took it between his for a moment, and then enveloped me in a bear hug I can still feel in my memory and which lightened my heart for hours. Forty years later, a young man aged all of six told me firmly he was

now too big to be kissed. Certainly, I said, we should always greet people in a way that makes them feel good. The trouble was, I felt too old not to be kissed. Next time we met, I duly shook his hand, after which he jumped up to clasp his arms round my neck like a monkey. This has been our private ritual ever since, a deadpan formal handshake followed by the joyous embrace

Attitudes have changed More males indulge in hugs these days, without embarrassment. This

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

cheeks touch. Overcome your prejudice, and give your friend a hug! ROBIN BUTTERELL No one will be offended

My Albanian husband was brought up to kiss his male friends and relatives on each cheek whenever they meet. When greeting my male friends or relatives, he forgets they

need not involve a kiss, even if are not of his ethnic background and has usually kissed them before they realise what's happening.

Often I have needlessly held my breath, awaiting horrified expressions. People are either so involved in flurries of hugging and kissing that they don't realise who's doing what or they look flattered by his affection! So go on, show some of yours! SOPHIE DHRAMI

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia My 24-year-old son has never stuck at anything. Although he's extremely clever, he left school without taking any Alevels. He's done a variety of courses - a foundation course at art school, and a business management course which he dropped out of. He started a course of art history, which ! paid for, but he left after one term. Now he just stays at home, gets up late and watches TV. I feed him but don't give him money. I suspect he gets it from a bit of

drug-dealing. His father wants to throw him out, but I feel he'll get deeper into drugs and end up in prison. What can I do? He's a lovely person in himself. Yours sincerely, Anne Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent n bouquet from Interflora. Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for sending the bouquet.

Love and human remains

An old pair of spectacles, a stained waistcoat, a faded love letter... Why do the lifeless artefacts that make up cultural memorabilia have such a hold on the imagination? By Michael Glover

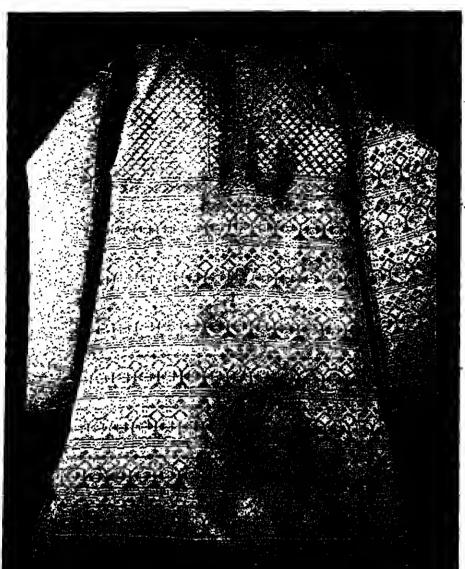
harles I and Oliver Cromwell, rex and regicide, make for uneasy bedfellows, but that has not deterred the Museum of London from mounting an exhibition of memorabilia of the two men in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth and the 350th anniversary of Charles's execution.

"Cromwell: Warts and All" includes the death mask, a fragment of buff jerkin, and an elaborately mounted leather button from Cromwell's doublet, accompanied by a parchment label which reads: This is one of the buttons that was on the coat of Oliver Cromwell when he sent to judge King Charles, taken off by my grandfather, John Hardingham, who was one of Oliver's lobsters [Redcoats] and attended him in all his wars in England and Ireland." That degree of awkward plainness has the ring of truth about it.

Other items such as the florid French portraiture and all those statuettes that were in the wake of Thomas Carlyle's famous 19th-century edition of Cromwell's Letters and Speeches lie somewhere between hagiography and special pleading. What is undeniable is that the face of the statuettes looks little like the man whose features speak volumes from the death mask; that powerful nose, those hroad cheeks, the hrutality of the long mouth...

Memorabilia is always a shock, but especially those artefacts that have been worn, owned or used - such as the waistcoat displayed here that Charles is said to have woro to his execution, with its eternally intriguing pattern of ghoulish stainings. "Did he kneel, lie or stoop over the 10inhigh execution block?" we are invited to speculate. It is only as time passes, and the individuals are captured by later admirers for partisan reasons, that the artefacts, mere lifeless objects of commemoration now, lose their hold on our feelings.

But why should this be so? What is it about the spectacles used by John Wesley that we can see in the Wesley Chapel on City Road? Or the couch on which Emily Bronte died that is still to be seen in the chilly parlour at the Haworth Parsonage? Or the various touching love tokens to Fanny Brawne at the Keats







Memories are made of these: Cromwell's signature; his death mask; and Charles I's waistcoat, said to have been worn on the scaffold

Museum of London

the problem lies with the art of replication, and what that comes to signify. A book or a poem, though usually written by one person, loses the distinctive imprimatur of its maker as soon as it is circulated. If it is successful as an act of communication. it becomes the property of its readers by virtue of its content. If it appeals widely, it is because its creator. Wordsworth's ice skates, displayed the minds and hearts of a great au- sciences. An excellent book repre- experience a strangely mingled va- our eyes had any authority?

As far as writers are concerned, er's property as the writer's. The book is now out in the world, a universal document, and an abstraction, not bound to its particular maker as it was during those days, months or years of its painful, private gestation. It has gained a peculiar authority of its own which a mere man or woman, baranguing us from a high stool in a puh, would find it more difficult to claim, After all, mere human brings by successfully exploring universal- are imperfect. We can see that with dience. It is now as much the read-sents, by contrast, a kind of cold, riety of feelings: were we right to

mane in its ruthlessly successful designs upon our time.

What happens, then, when we come upon that lock of hair, that pair of small spectacles, that strangely small and narrow ice skate? First of all, doubts assail us. What had seemed almost universal - some idea of the greatness of William Wordsworth and his poetry, for example - is, all of a sudgen, particu-

finished perfection, almost inhu- have such reckless trust in the supervene - the thought that we words of this man or woman? It also reminds us that the words we had read were written in particular circumstances, amid mildew down the walls, the brawling of young children. the inquisitiveness of stray dogs. After all, in so many respects, this writer must have resembled you and me. At first, this may cause us to question the power of print. What Cronwell - for good or ill. right had it to sequee us into be Museum in Hampstead? Or ly interesting themes, has touched our own eyes, or examine our con- larised once again, and we lieving that what appeared before undecided to this day.

could perhaps have done the same sort of thing ourselves if had we had only had the talent, the luck, the perseverance, or the rich, aristocratic friend... And also the thought that it was surely some kind of a miracle that so much came out of so little, out of a mere human life. whether - in the case of Oliver

And then other, mellower feelings To 28 Feb. Information: 0171-600 3699

Axaxaxas Mlo and other tall stories

A FEW years ago The Shout, the 15- and professional jazz and straight strong choir put together by the composer Orlando Gough and the composer/ singer Richard Chew, a vibrant piece of three-dimensionwould have been called a bold experiment. But Tuesday night's performance was so well organised, conceived, written and performed (and, importantly, well funded) that you couldn't possibly call it an ex-

periment - it was a huge success. The choir is a smaller spin-off from The Shouting Fence, the fantastic outdoor piece that Chew and Gough devised for the open spaces, concrete balconies and steps around the Hayward Gallery, and one of the highlights of last summer. Something like 30 energetic performers, sheer intensity of the piece - and its amateur choirs, children's groups

singers graced some of the bleakest vistas of the South Bank Centre with Indoors requires a rather differ-

ent approach, so after half an hour of Scanner's quiet ambient sounds. the choir took to the stage in a horse-shoe shape to attack Chew's complex and impressive "Tall Stories" with great energy and conviction.

After an interval, five of the singers returned for a dramatic performance of Gough's "Axaxaxas Mlo", a Borges-inspired sequence that, at times, threatened to escape into abstraction. Fortunately the realisation - held the audience's atMUSIC

THE SHOUT, SCANNER THE SPITZ LONDON

tention, as the quintet sang, chanted and made beautiful noises by candlelight, framed by a wide brick arch at the club's far side. For the final piece, Gough's "Why Do You Sing", the full 17-strong choir returned to the main stage, filling the small space with a joyful, complex noise that was still totally unamplified, with impressive solos from Mike Henry, Wayne Ellington and Angela Elliott. Occasional uncertainties and

event was a robust, unpretentious success for all concerned. The club context worked fine - the sympathetic audience clearly relished the opportunity to listen to intelligent music with a drink to hand.

A feature of The Shout is the expressive use of a variety of vocal timhres - from full-blown "operatic" vowels through natural singing, to more earthy sounds. There was plenty of bravura writing - tumbling lattices of counterpoint, dissonant clusters, rhythmic riffs and chants, and special effects - yet you never heard this as an abstracted choir. Distinctive voices such as Melanie Pappenheim's, Jeremy Birchall's

time for rehearsal or revision, but the acoustic mix. This is not hybrid or "fusion", but a practical and constructive coming together of styles, traditions, and musicians, that makes a lot of contemporary vocal music - and a lot of contemporary club music for that matter - sound silly, institutionalised and redundant. Ensembles such as The Shout and Gogmagogs and events such as The Shouting Fence are showing the way for a more meaningful form of music theatre in the future.

The event was billed as being "framed by a sampled sound mix" by Rohin Rimbaud (aka Scanner), whose low-density sounds, originally sampled from The Shout, provided an effective contrast to the glitches may have revealed a lack of and Chew's, are discernible in the intense contemporary choral music.

Most people seemed to appreciate the Shout/ Scanner contrast, but Rimbaud was unhappy, expecting something more in the way of collaboration (and deserving a more comfortable space to work in). Rimbaud's best work has used frequencies that work with and around spoken voices - the found conversations he scans from mobile phone networks; Harriet Walter's monologue in a radio version of Cocteau's La Voix Humaine. The sounds he provided on this occasion were transparent enough to provide a background for conversation, yet interesting enough to reward quiet attention if you preferred solitude; genuinely ambient, in fact.

JOHN L WALTERS

Bleak opera house

OPERA SAMUEL BARBER: VANESSA LYRIC STUDIO HAMMERSMITH

HOW IRONIC that an opera about waiting and hnping should take 40 years to arrive in the UK. Typical. Samuel Barber's Vanessa enjoyed a triumphant US premiere at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 1958. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for him. The libretto has its sillinesses, but the central allegory compromise or be damned stands firm and the score, full of aching regret and promise unfulfilled, is largely fine and occasionally special, notable above all for the frisson of Barber's wonderfully ambiguous harmonies and heady orchestrations.

At Hammersmith, times are hard. The Other Theatre Company (under severe financial constraints) can manage only a piano. Which begs the question: can one really hill this as the UK premiere? One can applaud the enterprise, for sure. Companie like this can perform a valuable service in refreshing parts of the repertoire that more prosperous organisations can't or won't, reach. The piano (bravely played by Anthony Kraus) is fine if you know, and can bear, the orchestrations in your subconscious. For those who don't, and can't, the complexion of the piece is altered. For better or worse, it becomes a bleaker and more consumptive essay. The director Loveday Ingram has effectively capitalised on that. The Lyric Studio, swathed in hlack, is made to feel suitably claustropbobic, windows and mirrors of the mind covered. Gaunt double doors convey the scale of Vanessa's estate. A scattering of snow suggests the long winters of discontent. house of sorrow and bopelessness. The exquisite prelude to the final scene

sounds like subversive Chopin. Subversive Barber, though, I had not bargained for. Anyone who has heard the famous Leontyne Price recording of Vanessa's Act I are important have been wondering if Meryl have been wondering the Vanessa's Act 1 aria might well same music. She looked strikingly svelte and neurotic. and behaved accordingly, hut this shallow, glassy, astringent voice was distressingly at odds with Barber's effulgent lyricism, curdling even the glorious quintet in the last scene. Louis Mott's "Erika". warmly, compassionately sung, provided some compensation. and Evan Bowers, as Anatol, was a tenor of some substance. So a taster, no more, of Barber's Vanessa. Ignore the programme synopsis which despite correction, still gets the relationship between the characters wrong. That's not shoestring, that's shoddy.

EDWARD SECKERSON

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Guilt in all its subtle shades

THEATRE

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE TRICYCLE THEATRE

IT IS a rare night at the theatre that begins with the director announcing that the price of the ticket includes a concessionary rate for taking a basic St John Ambulance course in first aid, or that ends with a minute's intense communal silence in remembrance of a dead youth whose murderers have, scandalously, yet to be brought to justice. Scrupulously directed by Nicolas Kent from transcripts edited by Richard Norton-Taylor, The Colour of Justice is an enormously potent, staged re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. First aid is stressed because the police's first dereliction of duty at the scene of that crime was a failure to give his stabbed, bleeding body

proper medical attention. The piece is in the noble tradition of the Tricycle Theatre's similar staging of the "arms to Iraq" Scott inquiry and the former, the cock-eyed Alice their apparent difficulty with professionally wooing the crim-democracy." It is, par excel-



Society confronts itself: Tricycle Theatre's staging of the Lawrence inquiry

Through the Looking Glass even the concept of racism. inal father of a key suspect. logic of the ministers provoked a kind of delighted intellectual outrage. But there was nothing exultant about the snorts of sickened laughter produced here by the parade of grimfaced, edgy and occasionally furious witnesses from the police, with their refrain of "I don't remember", their seemingly institutional tendency to

The unpatronising performances are careful not to make these figures animated Sunday review of the "arms to "wanted" posters: the colour of Iraq" re-enactment, Irving culpability comes in subtly different shades. But the crossvalue of such an exercise: "The examinations conjure up an act of framing this event on of this excellent evening. almost farcically sordid world stage," he wrote, "puts it under of corrupt collusion where, say, a piercing light and renews the the key eyewitness can be put in the special "protection" of also reasserts the theatre's Nuremberg trials. In the mislay things permanently and the very police officer who is role as a supreme invention of appeared in later editions of

guard against more-liheral-than-thou self-congratulation because one has participated In a collective ritual of indignation with a mixed-race audience. Indeed, the witness who moved me the most was the Irish Catholic, Conor Taaffe (beautifully played by Tim Woodward). A genuine Good Samaritan, he actually went to help Stephen Lawrence as he lay bleeding at the bus stop. It is significant that this in-

lence, theatre as an image of

society confronting itself.
It is important, though, to

stinctively virtuous man was also the readiest to admit in court that, because the youths were black, he initially thought it was a trick to mug him. An awareness of the reflex racism within us is the first step to overcoming it. A good man is prepared to acknowledge it. The police, still denying institutional racism, decline to do so. That's the profound lesson PAUL TAYLOR

To 6 Feb. Booking: 0171-328 original sense of shock... it 1000. A version of this review

Out of space and time

IT WAS not a glorious moment DANCE in its nomadic status when the Royal Ballet found it had ROYAL BALLET: nowhere to go but the Festival ROMEO AND JULIET Hall, vacated by the English ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL National Ballet because the LONDON stage is the size of a shelf and lacks a fly tower Nor conseeach other in the verismo of the quently, was it an inspired idea crowd sequences. And so, dur-

to stage MacMillan's Romeo

mering expansion.

hle, relating convincingly to

ing the ball, there are the vivid and Juliet there - a Cecil B De simultaneous pockets of drama among the guests, with Lord and Lady Capulet shuttling Mille of a production, with human hordes, massive sets and countless scene changes. desperately around trying to control Juliet, to separate Tybalt and Romeo, to placate For the occasion, Nicholas Georgiadis revised and scaled Paris. Yet how sad, this time, to down his original designs, subwatch such a stiff account of the stituting an immobile archilater, pivotal fighting scene, tectural background of steps with Jonathan Cope's Romeo and terraced colonnades. standing woodenly, apparently which served as market-place, uninterested in the fact that ballroom, balcony and bedroom. But that still left little Mercutio is mortally wounded. and Christopher Saunders's room for the cast, who threat-Tybalt possibly the most stolid ened to teem off the edge into the orchestra pit and halt I have ever seen.

Andrea Quinn's conducting. This was not an evening of This last was a pleasure of the vivid individual performances, despite the glittering core of evening - vigorous in its con-Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan trasts, from hushed stillness to Cope. Left alone, Cope reverts pounding solemnity or shimto his frustrating emotional inarticulacy; but, faced with Romeo and Juliet has Guillem, he lets loose to always brought out the combecome a dream Romeo pany's strength as an ensemhandsome with his long neck

and black curls. ecstatically abandoned in his attitude renversé turns, a strong and involved partner in the various

pas de deux The technical perfection of Guillem's dancing aside, Julie is not one of her most affecting roles. Although she is clearly sincere in Juliet's tragedy, you become aware of her physical ly active, conscious Frence style of acting, among the Royal Ballet's less stylise approach. She is best at har piness, so that in the balcon scene she really makes you liv the heart-leaping excitemen

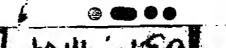
of falling in love. Shi-Ning Liu as Benvolic creates smooth and clear sbapes, but needs to turn down the volume of his ges turing, given that less is more except in a stadium. William Trevitt, not one of ballet's effortless or witty performers is an impossibly handsome but unexciting Mercutio. Gary Avis causes scarcely a ripple in the admittedly boring role of Paris, Roll on some of the backstage dramas. How about a ballet version of Mary Allen's Royal Opera House Diary?

NADINE MEISNER

Why go to the theatre to see.

this? In his Independent on

Wardle put his finger on the



SAMUEL BARRE

VANESSA

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The riddle of the minx

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (12) DIRECTOR: DON ROOS STARRING: CHRISTINA RICCI. MARTIN DONOVAN. LISA KUIROW 100 MINS

ake Alicia Silverstone from Clueless, transplant her to whitetrash Louisiana, add some puppy fat, stir in a bitter dose of cynicism, and you have something like 16-year-old Dedee Truitt (Christina Ricci), anti-heroine of Don Roos's hracingly upfront comedy The Opposite of Sex.

Destined to become one of the great movie minxes, Dedee gets the picture off to a breezy start at her stepfather's funeral, flicking a cigarette butt into his newly dug grave, wrestling her mom to the ground, then packing up and hitting the road, handgun in tow. "If you think I'm, like, plucky and scrappy, and all I need is love, you're in over your head," she says, coolly addressing the audience. "I don't have a heart of gold, and I don't grow one later. OK?" You'd better believe it.

Dedee's insolent asides make us her confidants as she turns up on the doorstep of her gay half-hrother. Bill (Martin Donovan), who's "like, the definition of a softie". You fear for him. Having installed herself chez Bill, who's too nice to make a fuss, Dedee sets to work on seducing his hunky but not-too-bright boyfriend, Matt (Ivan Sergei). Her question to him: how does he know he ensures that sentimentality he's not into sex with women if he's won't blunt the film's razor tooth,

But you can't underestimate Dedee's wiles. Once she gets pregnant, things start to get very complicated indeed. Matt and Dedee make off with Bill's money and the ashes of his late lover - as ransom, you understand - at which point Matt's ex-lover, Jason (Johnny Galecki), shows up, threatening to frame Bill for sexual harassment at school. So Bill and his schoolteacher friend, Lucia, hotfoot it to Los Angeles, where the fugitive pair have



concerned with exploring character than the mechanics of farce, and he's written a terrifically spiky script to back up his conception. With Dedee's voice at the controls, never tried it? His reply: "I've never tried communism either. Or grits." and he keeps the audience slightly tried communism either. Or grits." off-halance throughout. Dedee booby-traps her narration with teasing bhuffs, candid opercus and a sardonic contempt for film tradition: The Opposite of Sex could be seen as a coming-of-age movie, save for the fact that that Dedee hates coming-of-age movies, particularly the line: "I never was the same again after that summer." Can you blame her? Besides, one look at her sullen baby-doll features tells you she probably came of age around the time she stopped hreast-feeding. The elfin Ricci does amazing work

If that plot sounds a little crowd- here: female roles with this much ed, don't be alarmed. Roos is more sass and swagger don't come along very often, and she takes to it with a heartless gusto.

What's more remarkable is that the film actually has two great comic performances. Dedee, having left Bill to pick up the tah for all the hell-raising she's done, isn't quite so prominent in the film's second half; instead, centre-stage is commandeered by Lucia, virtuous and responsible like Bill, and miserable with repression. As played by Lisa Kudrow, she's a hit of a scold, and knows it - we get a sense of real loneliness from her, too; perhaps all those high-minded principles have scared men off. "How does a woman get so hitter?" "Observation," she rejoins.

Continually horrified by other people's misbehaviour (of Dedee: "My God, she's the human tabloid!"), Lucia is too uptight and

schoolmarmish to notice that the local sheriff (Lyle Lovett) has become sweet on her. In her role as Phoebe, the flaky folkle in Friends. Kudrow's adorable dippiness has always got on my nerves, yet she's a

revelation here. Without its ever seeming schematic, Lucia and Dedee represent the film's contrary poles: as the latter sees it, sex ends in babies and relationships, whereas she just wants the opposite of that - namely untrammelled, promiscuous fun. Lucia, on the other hand, regards love and companionship and fulfilment as the highest goals, and scorns those who selfishly pursue their own ends. As she tells one such offender: "This is how we do things on the planet Maturia. We have much to teach you." In the end, of course, the definitions blur as both women find that they can get them- from the title that the opposite of sex

tween love and sex, between pleasing yourself and doing unto others. It's, like, life.

Driven along hy a jaunty jazz score. Roos's film sags a little in its final third as lessons are, however so ironically, handed around. But you wouldn't begrudge the feelgood ending. Roos has managed something quite unusual in this film (his debut, incidentally). While he evidently likes his characters, he doesn't hust a gut trying to make us like them. They all, to one degree or another exasperate, and offend, and occasionally appal - even saintly Bill and his forbearance had me grinding my teeth - yet we don't mind extending them our sympathy, precisely because none of them ever asks for it.

In the end, it feels like an optimistic movie. Who'd have guessed selves snagged somewhere in be- was actually something good?

ALSO SHOWING

MEET JOE BLACK MARTIN BREST (12) SOUR GRAPES LARRY DAVID (15) DOBERMANN JAN KOUNEN (18) EDUTTONERS PETR ZELENKA (NC)

IN MEET Joe Black a sixtysomething widower, Bill Parrish (Anthony Hopkins), has been getting intimationsdoomy voices, ticker trouble - that all point the same way: his number's up. Sure enough, death pays him a house call, only he's not your usual Grim Reaper in cadaverous make-up and a tatty cowl. No: in Martin Brest's portentous romantic drama, death is played by Brad Pitt with blond highlights, a \$3,000 suit and a vaguely beatific air. Death wants some vacation time on Earth before whisking Parrish away (the source is the 1934 film Death Takes a Holiday), and it seems he's no fool: he chooses to stay with Parrish, a media tycoon afloat in baronial splendour in Manhattan, rather than with, say, a rent

collector in New Jersey. The old man then finds death - renamed Joe Black - making the moves on his favourite daughter Susan (Claire Forlani), who seems very taken with her father's mysterious new guest. So the question is posed: is love stronger than death? Hollywood is somewhat preoccupied with this subject. Last year's City of Angels and the unspeakable What Dreams May Come dabbled with romance beyond the grave, though whether this indicates a new-found spirituality or simply the age-old timor mortis is unclear. Either way, it seems to encourage an astonishing windiness in film-makers, and lamentable posturing in actors. Brad Pitt complained in an interview that his role defied research, but his impersonation of death as a stiff-necked, strangle-voiced hick who likes peanut butter is not the stuff to provoke anyone to fear and trembling.

The subplot concerns a dastardly takeover bid that will break Parrish's empire asunder, and at least it is a kind of plot; the rest of the movie snails towards the three-hour mark beneath the weight of a thousand Soulful Glances, Profound Silences and Ridiculous Speeches. (Pitt talking patois to a dying Jamaican grandmother qualifies as a low point.) That Brest has no sense of pacing is palpable, but a sense of mercy would have been nice. All that keeps boredom at bay is Forlani's almond eyes, Hopkins's tender gravitas and the sadly infrequent presence of Jeffrey Tambor as the tycoon's son-in-law, proving that his Hank from The Larry Sanders Show is no fluke: he comedian's. Maybe they should have let him play Death instead.

Anyone who has ever stayed up to watch Seinfeld will discern the stamp of its co-creator Larry David in Sour Gropes, a feature début that thrives on the same meticulous comedy of triviality. It's a tale of two All films on release from 15 Jan



cousins who fall out over a windfall Brain surgeon Evan (Steven Weber) and sports-shoe designer Richie (Craig Bierko) take their girlfriends for a weekend in Atlantic City. Richie borrows two quarters from Evan for a last go on the slot machine – and hits the jackpot, to the tune of \$436,000. Trouble begins when Evan asks for half of the loot. Richie, of course, won't give him a red cent.

What follows is a complicated yet neatly worked farce straight from the Seinfeld textbook, whereby an anecdote is steam-rollered flat beneath a ton of misunderstandings, running gags and cute observations. There are some good one-liners, and a tart mini-parody of Friends that's just about the funniest thing in the movie. Yet Sour Grapes hasn't really enough juice to get it home, and it also reminded me why I don't care for Seinfeld any more. It's not the relentless small-mindedness so much as the self-satisfied way the comedy is played out; it's like the bloke in the pub who gets laughs for his first few jokes but doesn't know when to stop.

Dobermann is, in at least two senses, a dog. Jan Kounen's cops and robbers movie trades in a hip, cartoonish ultraviolence that would make us go oooh if it hadn't been done to death already. Vincent Cassel plays the leather-clad outlaw Yann, aka The Dobermann, who with his deaf moll (Monica Bellucci) and a ragtag gang of psychopaths raids a Paris bank and leaves a trail of bodies. Out to nail him is a cop of such staggering moral turpitude (Tcheky Karyo) that you are immediately inclined to side with the criminal. Kounen directs in the frenzied, kinetic style of an MTV video, though he nods to other influences via a prominent display of two movie posters, Trainspotting and The Usual Suspects. Well, he can dream.

The six interrelated stories making up the Czech indie Buttoners are united by a curiosity with fate, coinhas an actor's timing as well as a cidence and the atom bomb. The writer-director Petr Zelenka has a quirky affection for the way things link up and comment on one other, sparking magical connections. It gets by on a ramshackle combination of eccentricity and rude charm.

"JANE HORROCKS **CHARMS** FOR ENGLAND IN THE STUNNING LITTLE VOICE:



"MICHAEL CAINE CIVES A PERFORMANCE **BEYOND COMPARE.**" ALEXANDER WALKER - EVENING STANDARD

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Jane Horrocks BEST AUTRESS Micbael Caine

Brenda Blethyn BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

RUSHES MIKE HIGGINS



THE CAST for The



World Is Not Enough, James Bond's next outing, is heginning to shape up. The ex-hreakfast-time siren Denise Van Outen has landed herself a part in the franchise's traditionally spectacular opening sequence, according to The Mirror. Van Outen's casting follows the production company's announcement that Pierce Brosnan will be up against none other than Robert Carlyle. He'll play the arch-

villain Renard who, thanks to a bullet lodged in his brain, is immune to pain. Fine, hut surely the producers have missed a chance to resurrect Cartyle's psychotic turn in Trainspotting: Begbie vs Bond -"Come aheed, 007, ye radge wee shite!"

1998 WAS the year that the ship came in for 20th Century Fox and Paramount. According to Variety, Titanic earned the studios \$3.2hn in theatrical, video and record releases and hroadcast-rights sales last year. The video of James Cameron's epic

alone has brought in revenue worth \$1bn.

the result of world-

wide sales of more

than 57 million units.

WITH LESS than a year to go before the start of the new millennium, there are certain things to which humanity will cling as earthquakes rend the earth, the sky falls on our heads and the clock on the video packs up - the eternal truth of Woody Allen's ongoing visits to his analyst being just one. Well, no more. According to a BBC interview to be broadcast this year, Mr Neurotic is so happy with his wife, Soon-Yi, that he's stopped seeing his shrink. Verily, the apocalypse

"WILL HAVE YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT WITH YOUR HEART PALPITATING AND YDUR BRAIN IN OVERDRIVE...**** .SD STRONG IT .SMART, TAUT..." NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS AGROSS THE COUNTRY lacksquare

Cinema to dishonour France

Serious cinema, or canny commercialism? Liese Spencer examines the current French vogue for in-your-visage film violence

Kassovitz's incendiary début La Haine opened in France, its hard-hitting tale of poverty. racism and police brutality sparked rioting in the banlieue among viewers who identified all too closely with the film's multiracial, disenfranchised anti-heroes. Now Gaspar Noé and Jan Kounen seek to provoke the same powerful reactions with their uncompromising first features Seul Contre Tous (I Stand Alone) and Dobermann.

But are these violent movies part of a wider attempt to reinstate social criticism into French cinema, or merely Gallic exploitation flicks, smash-and-grab callingcards from film-makers with an eye on the international market?

Both films, though very different in style, come under the broad umbrella of Jeune Cinema Français, a movement that Ginette Vincendeau, a lecturer in French cinema at Warwick University, describes as "an amalgam of artistic vision and issues which are about more than middle-class people having affairs in beautiful apartments".

Along with other recent releases such as Clubbed to Death, The Dream Life of Angels and La Vie de Jésus, these post-La Hnine products eschew the empty cool of stylists such as Luc Besson (Nikita). Jean-Jacques Beineix (Betty Blue) and Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro (Delicatessen), offering instead snapshots from a France riddled with unemployment and racism.

Still, while this new breed of French film broadens the country's celluloid exports beyond the traditional heritage swashbucklers and exquisite psychodramas, Vincendeau cautions against making any explicitly political claims for such movies. Indeed, the last thing these young film-makers wants is to be described as polemical.

"In France, critics use 'sociological' to describe TV movies, so anyone with artistic, auteur ambitions is careful to avoid the label," says Vincendeau.

It's an argument supported by Noe's press statement for Seul Contre Tous, in which one of the reasons he cites for making the film is "to depict the France I see every day, a France that looks more like the country described in Hugo, Zola, Henri Charrière or in any other documentary about Vichy, than the vision of France depicted in the films that invade my TV screen, made by more civilised film-makers".

Edited to the sound of off-screen gunshots. interspersed with inter-titles and even featuring a sensational 30-second countdown lin which viewers are given a chance to leave







Not pleased to see you: top, 'Dobermann'; bottom left, 'La Haine'; bottom right, 'Seul Contre Tous'

the cinema before its climax), Seul Contre irony is betrayed, however, by the skill with Tous works hard to manipulate a reaction.

"Ooe critic said that just hearing the music made him want to call Amnesty International," recalls Noe with satisfaction, adding that he made the film to "dishonour France" and would have liked to have had it hanned, since it would have shown that he "had made something shocking". The liberal agenda behind Noe's deadpan

which he turns his monstrous aggressor into a pathetic victim at the film's finish. Stripping away all the physical and emotional com-fort of what he calls "soft bourgeois French cinema" Noé reduces humanity to sex. shelter and animal survival, then shows how in such conditions - tolerance and morality can be regarded as life's little luxuries.

If Seul Contre Tous is not overtly politi-

cal, its in-your-face aesthetic certainly banes home a distinctly moral message. Not so Dobermann. "Your first film shows the juvenile side of vou: you just want to shake everyone up," says Jan Kounen of his début feature. Dobermonn is an ultra-violent. ultra-stylised action movie full of cartoon sex and sadism, which pits Vincent Cassel's eponymous outlaw and his feral gang against Tcheky Karyo's flamboyantly corrupt cop.

Like Noe, Kounen uses guerrilla tactics to aggressively nail the attention of his audience. And, like Noé, Kounen denies any sociological or satirical intent - the difference being that, after watching Dobermann, you believe him. Kounen's defiantly shallow romp revels in its own lack of substance, seemingly content to pastiche the action genre in a series of endless explosions and politically incorrect exchanges between twodimensional stereotypes.

Even its star, Vincent Cassel, will admit this: "There was not much dialogue. It was like playing Batman. Playing Vinz in La Home was different he was a real anti-hero. I think Dobermann is a fantasy Vinz might have had of himself, someone Vinz would have loved to be."

Interestingly, while Seul Contre Tous won only praise from both left- and rightwing commentators in France, Dobermann's provocations unleashed a torrent of critical venom.

"The press were saying that it was a Nazi movie," remembers Noé. "I think what really offended them was that although the film was made in France, it looks like a Japanese Manga movie. Critics saw that as some kind of cultural betrayal."

Pushed to a comic extreme, Dobermann's crass genericism marks it out from the cuteur tendencies of much Jeune Cinéma Français. But traces of its magnie commercialism are in many of the films - not least m La Haine's hommage to Taxi Driver.

"The reason La Haine was such a success was that it managed to channel French social issues into the format of an international crime thriller," says Vincendeau, "Kassowitz borrowed from John Woo, Scorsese and Spike Lee to produce a hybrid of the political movie and the more fashionable crime noir."

Cassel is confident that such a trick can be repeated. "There is this thing going on in Paris, a lot of young actors and young filmmakers who are making friends with each other - Cassel's directorial debut, Crime Boulevard, is produced by the guy who produced La Haine - and feeling very confident. Gaspar Noe, Jan Kounen, Mathieu Kassowitz - suddenly, we're here, and they [the French film industryl cannot do without us. But the war is not over yet; there's a lot to do. Probably the war is to have a movie released around the world, not to be completely crushed by the US movie industry."

Indeed. Whether these young guns win or lose the war, whether they're exploiting or exposing, one thing's for sure: violence always sells.

Anthony Quinn reviews Dobermann on

A SHORT HISTORY OF ULTRA VIOLENCE

1980s: Bertrand Tavernier's L.627 is a lone slice of vérité in an ocean of designer style. It investigates issues of racism in the police force and society in general.

1991: Gaspar Noe releases his short Carne, in which a butcher, mistakenly helieving his daughter has been raped, exacts a terrible revenge. He drafts a screenplay for Seul Contre Tous and shows it to potential hackers, who tell him to "go away and come back with a normal movie starring normal actors".

1993: Jan Kounen releases his short Vibroboy, a comedy displaying the one-time cartoonist's obsession with sex and violence - a psychopath runs amok with a phallic fertility symbol strapped to a chainsaw.

April 1995: After Kassowitz's comments that "La Haine is an anti-police film", security police turn their backs on the film's cast and crew at a Cannes preview screening.

June 1995: Following huge success, 260 copies of La Hnine are made instead of the usual 50, but after riots in the suburbs the film is accused of inciting violence.

Edinburgh Festival 1998. Gaspar Noé speaking about Seul Contre Tous: "A lot of people ask me if this is a racist movie, and I say, yes, it's an anti-French movie."

Strong, conniving women: the final frontier

Director Don Roos scripted Hart to Hart and Dynasty 2. No surprise then that The Opposite of Sex is about a bitch from hell. By Geoffrey Macnab

DON ROOS began his career in to spot the soap opera influence. with "a sense of energy, drive and Hollywood writing glossy, primetime soap operas. He ticks off the credits. First was Hnrt to Hart. Then followed Paper Dolls (trials and travails of teenage fashion models), Dynasty 2 (trials and travails of the Colby family) and Nightingoles (trials and travails of student nurses). This last effort, he says proudly. was voted worst television show of the Eighties. "We were hounded off the air by the Nurses' Association of America. They really objected to our depiction of student nurses as ready and willing to jump into the sack with any young doctor who came by."

Watching The Opposite of Sex. Roos's directorial debut, it isn't hard

With her red lipstick and white hikiui, the film's teenage narrator Dedee Truitt theautifully played by Christina Ricci) looks like a Long Island Lolita. She also hehaves every hit as monstrously as Joan Collins's Alexis. She lies, steals and sleeps around, gleefully spreading malicious rumours wherever she goes. "I like strong, conniving women with wicked tongues," Roos explains when asked about the origins of the character. "They're a staple of soap opera. There's a gossipy feel to this movie - it's not a film about ideas. What interests me is two people in a room having a fight."

sexual recklessness", but she's not the first "bad girl" Roos has created. Back in 1992, he scripted Single White Female, which famously featured the flatmate-from-hell Jennifer Jason Leigh tossing a Labrador puppy out of a skyscraper window. "They're both violent, dark characters," he acknowledges, "but Leigh is full of self-pity. The big difference here is that Dedee never whines or tries to make us like her." In other words, we root for her, whatever she does. To show her in an even more gaudy light, Roos cast Lyle Lovett as the small-town sheriff bumbling along in her wake. "He always re-Dedee fuels The Opposite of Sex minded me of a face on Mount



Andrew Buurman

Rushmore," he says of the lugubrious country singer turned actor. "He has a chiselied, granite quality – he looks really American and solid." Roos, now 43, grew up in the late Fifties in what he refers to as "a very less, he treats her with sympathy. His iety." He was eight years old when mythic figure for us," he remembers. "His death was the first time I had seen adults shaken and crying."

Roos' first screenplay, Love Field, focuses on the events surrounding the killing. In the film, Michelle Pfeiffer plays Lurene, a Dallas housewife who embarks on an epic trek across country to Kennedy's funeral in Washington. A naïve, idealistic busybody with complete faith in the myth of JFK's Camelot, Lurene is the polar opposite of Dedee. Neverthe-

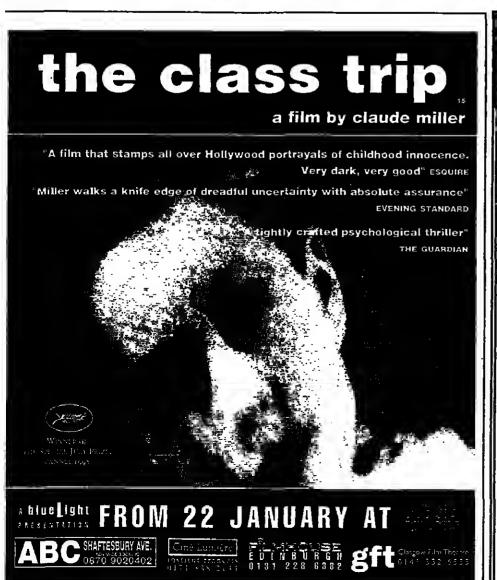
suburban, middle-class, rigid soc- own mother was equally obsessed with Kennedy. As you'd expect from Kennedy was assassinated, an event the future soap opera writer, he, that shook his family to the core. too, bought into the glamour, show "Kennedy was a huge, important, husiness and gossip surrounding JFK and Jackie: "We didn't go to the

see the grave more than once." There are some unlikely parallels between Love Field and The Opposite of Sex. Both feature strong female characters. Both are road movies, as indeed are Boys on the Side, the film about three women on their way across America which Roos wrote in 1995, and Diabolique, the (very soapy, OTT) remake of the

thing peculiarly American," he says. "If you have problems in a certain setting, you just get in a car and see what happens."

Even now, Roos admits to a certain embarrassment about The Opfuneral hut we sure as hell went to posite of Sex. It is far franker than anything he has written hefore, he half wishes he hadn't made the film. and he is still worried that his mother didn't like it. "She called me up and said, 'Don, I saw your movie and you're a genius. The scenery was beautiful." He pauses before confiding. "But there isn't any scenery in the movie... three trees at most!"

George Clouzot classie which he See reviews, page 11



DOUBLE BILL

PETR ZELENKA, DIRECTOR OF 'BUTTONERS', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

a small part, although in

character was played -

Gummo is a different

take on a familiar genre.

neighbourhood, where

age. The boys kill alley-

cats for money, which is

young boys are coming of

Gummo the main

It is about a very

depressive





GUMMO DIR. HARMONY KORINE (1997) **BUFFALO 66**

VINCENT GALLO (1997)

THESE FILMS represent the very healthy stream of author/director movies. Both directors also appear in the films. They are very experimental, yet not so way-out that they are unwatchable. When directors have been writers or actors, it seems to me that they are experienced enough to tell what is important and what is not. Which is a vital quality when you want to make good films

rather like having a joh on a small budget. somewhere between Gummo was a real killing people and an ordinary occupation. Like revelation. It's so authentic - you can't Buffolo 66 it's a grey area mistake this film for any between a gangster film

and a film about a typical other. For instance, the music is very specific, middle-class life. Buffolo thrash-metal. The acting 66 could be a violent jailis also superb. There's a house film, except that combination of actors and the guy who gets out of jail is gentle. He is too shy non-actors and you are to kiss the girl. Both these films are unable to tell the difference. You can usually use amateurs for

very funny. Humour is very important to me, otherwise it's like a Bergman film and can risk being a hit hrilliantly - by a non-actor. pretentious. A lot of the humour comes from Gallo and Korine because they don't take themselves too seriously. You can tell a lot about the director from the script - much more than from directing techniques. And, because of this, writers are more

> INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

interesting to me.

ROBERT HANKS The most striking thing



about 'Mersey Blues' was the money involved PAGE 18

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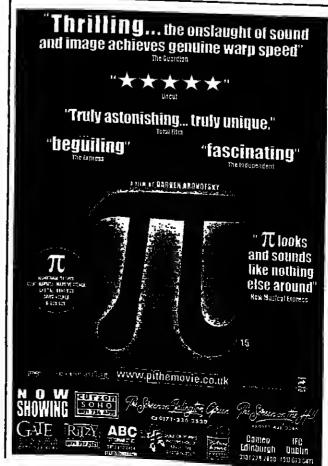
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Asking for fairness

expected the prosecutor to be on my side, hut he didn't even introduce himself to me hefore the case, recalls Jessica, hitterly disillusioned by the criminal justice system. After she was raped by her ex-husband, her fear that he might assault her again gave her the courage to see her complaint through to trial - only then to see him acquitted.

Jessica, 36, who has two small children, has nothing but praise for the way the police dealt with the investigation and the help offered by her local rape crisis centre - all of which made the court process even more of a let-down.

"I was shocked and dismayed that when the defence started telling lies about me, and his friends were called to give character evidence for him and against me, suggesting that I was a slag, the prosecutor didn't leap to his feet and challenge what was being said. "It went on in this vein right up to the closing speeches. The defence lawyer, who was very clever, suggested that I had asked for it, suggested that I liked a bit of rough. The prosecutor didn't disabuse the jury of this even during his closing speech.

What was really surprising was that though he was on trial, I was the one who was being condemned. I asked myself after the acquittal whether, if I had had someone who knew the story, who had talked it through with me beforehand and who knew what the defence barrister's tactics were likely to be, there would have been a verdict of guilty."

The role of the prosecution is one of the factors being considered in a Home Office study into why the conviction rate for rape has dropped dramatically - from 24 per cent in 1985 to 10 per cent in1996 - despite a threefold increase in the number of rapes recorded by the police over the same period.

David Magson, assistant chief crown prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Yorkshire, has been liaising with the Research Centre on Violence, Abuse and Gender Relations at Leeds Metropolitan University to set up a pilot course to train prosecutors in such cases. He says that the drop in the conviction rate has to be seen in the context of the number of cases now coming to trial which would not



The rape victim in the trial of Ralston Edwards broke down as he cross-examined ber in court

quittals as being a failure of the go towards protecting the victim." whole system, But I think you can say that there is a greater number of acquittals in rape cases than in other sorts of cases and, yes, we need to look at that," he concedes.

He adds that rape and sexual assault cases are supervised by CPS lawyers with at least 10 years' experience, and cases are presented in court by independent counsel.

"Part of the course will be aimed at increasing awareness of the mainly male counsel so that they do not make the same assumptions that you sometimes hear judges making," explains Magson.

Another aim of the course is to ensure that prosecutors robustly challenge attempts by the defence to cross-examine complainants on their past sexual history. Magson says: "That is quite clearly a duty of the prosecuting counsel. One of the purposes of this exercise is to edu-"You cannot necessarily take the fully aware of all the relevant legiscatthat there are now more aclation and decided case law that training in dealing with the special "Prosecutors as a course offering prosecutors expert more effectively."

That will include proposals under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill that evidence of or questioning about a complainant's sexual behaviour will not be admissible as evidence of whether he or she consented to the offence, unless a judge

decides that it relates to a specific

instance of fact within 24 hours of the alleged assault, and that its main purpose is not to impugn the witness's character. The court process has been made even more harrowing for some rape victims who have had to face being cross examined in court by their alleged attacker. Raiston Edwards was jailed for life after he cross-ex-

tioning victims. Concern over the effectiveness of some rape prosecutions prompted and current research so that to show that the witness is a mode cate prosecutors so that they are the research centre to set up its pilot they can prosecute these cases

amined his victim for six days, a case

which has led to a change in the law

to prevent alleged rapists ques-

circumstances that surround rape

and sexual assault cases. The course, which is due to start this spring in Leeds, involves three two-hour seminars covering latest research, changes in legislation, trial preparation, dealing with witnesses, cross-examination techniques and the Appeal Court process. Julie Bindel, assistant director of the research centre, says that the course, which is being designed with the close co-operation of the CPS in Yorkshire, will be evaluated to show whether it results in

by the Home Office. "We are not suggesting that prosecutors do not know how to do their job. What we want to do is give them the latest thinking on forensic evidence, courtroom techniques

more convictions. Depending on

the results, there are hopes that it

may eventually be funded nationally

"Prosecutors are the people who sides of the same error."

have to educate juries about rape myths - that there are somehow 'deserving' and 'undeserving' victims, that marital or acquaintance rape is not as damaging as rape by a stranger - and that means being alive to the influence of their own prejudices," says Bindel.

Speakers on the course include Fiona Mason, forensic psychiatrist at Broadmoor, Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at Sussex University, Helen Grindrod QC, an experienced prosecutor and barrister Vera Baird. author of Rape in Court, a critique of rape trials, published last year. Vera Baird says that the Bill will

also allow evidence regarding sexual behaviour to be admitted to rebut evidence called by the prosecution about the complainant, so it is essential that prosecutors are trained to avoid that happening. She says: "It is no more to the Crown's advantage of virtue than it is to the defence to

Human rights in the balance

LAW & FAST TRACK/13

HUMAN RIGHTS come in many shapes and sizes. Resolving the apparent conflict between General Pinochet's claim to sovereign immunity and the rights of his alleged victims to justice is not difficult from a human rights perspective. The case against Pinochet, as set out in the Spanish request for his extradition, is that after the military coup in 1973 the Dina answerable to Pinochet, engaged in torture and hostage-taking.

Confronted with allegations of such inhumanity, few would dissent from the ill-fated House of Lords decision that such acts cannot he regarded as a function of a head of state such as to attract immunity from criminal proceedings.

But finding the right balance between human rights and democracy is more difficult.

As the House of Lords was hearing the Pinochet case, the Human Rights Act 1998 slipped on to the statute book. It gives effect in our law to the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European

Convention on Human Rights. Under the Act, it will be unlawful for any public authorities - including central and local government, the police and even courts - to violate convention rights. The issue of human rights will affect all contact between the individual and the state.

The ingenious feature of the Act is the way it attempts to balance the democratic right of the majority to exercise political power with the democratic need of individuals and minorities to have their human rights secured.

The Act aims to give the courts as much leeway as possible to protect rights, short of power to ignore Acts of Parliament, All legislation is to be interpreted as far as possible in a way that is compatible with convention rights. If that is not possible, the higher courts will adjudicate; then it will be for Parliament to decide whether there should be legislation.

The declaration of incompatibility is therefore a crafty device intended to sidestep the controversial issue of parliamentary sovereignty. Whether it succeeds will

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



KEIR STARMER

depend mostly on the attitude of the judges to their new role. The Government hopes that the effect of the new Act will be to create a human rights culture in the UK. To achieve this, the start date for the Act has been delayed until 2000 so that the Judicial Studies Board can finish training judges. magistrates and tribunal memhers in human rights law. A close scrutiny of some of the decisions in our courts over the past 25 years suggests that the £6m cost will be well worth it.

But a human rights culture cannot be imposed from the top. The Act is unlikely to succeed without a public awareness campaign. The Pinochet case and those following - including the rehearing later this month will keep the issue of human ights in the public eye for only a limited period.

A good example of an effective awareness campaign comes from South Africa, where the human rights provisions of the new constitution were drafted only after full consultation with the public. When it hecame law millions of copies were printed (many in cartoon form, for those with reading difficulties). No such promotion is envisaged for the UK's Human Rights Act

The claim by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that the Act will create a "new and better relationship between the Government and the people" is unlikely to be realised if implementation is left to the judges and lawyers.

Keir Starmer is a barrister at Doughty Street chambers specialising in human rights

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

MARKS & SPENCER

treesties Mains

d striking thing

Wersol Stuss

History: Russian refugee Michael Marks founded the company in 1884, in Kirkgate, a Leeds street market. Ten years later, he teamed up with Tom Spencer, a cashier from a wholesale company, and established the Marks and Spencer Penny Bazaar. In the 1920s, the growing husiness adopted a then-revolutionary policy of buying direct from manufacturers, and in 1926 Marks and Spencer became a public company, registering the trademark "St Michael" two years later. In 1930, it opened its flagship store at Marble Arch, and during that decade began to sell food and set up a staff welfare department. When the war came, M&S was involved in running the clothing Utility Scheme. In the mid-1970s, it opened its first continental stores, and in 1988, it bought the American clothing company Brooks Brothers and Kings Super Markets, a US

Address: Headquarters are at Michael House, Baker Street, London W1.

food chain. Mid-1990s, it

launched its financial services.

Ambience: Renowned as a friendly environment with a high emphasis on team-work.

Vital statistics: There are now 470 stores employing 71,300 people, with a turnover of around £8bn per annum. Around a quarter of the UK adult population visits the stores each week. The company has quite an investment programme, too: £10m this year on communityrelated projects, plus a threeyear £2.2bn scheme. There are more than 3,000 food lines on display and company's Classics brand is the UK's fourth largest in cosmetics: it also has 33 per cent of the UK's sandwich market.

Lifestyle: Those working in stores will be expected to work weekends and late nights. Trainees have to be "flexible".

Easy to get into? Leadership, adaptability, personal flair and individuality are essential qualities, says a spokesperson. "We're not looking for clones," she explains. "By taking on new people, we keep bringing new ideas into the husiness." Last year, 260 graduates were recruited in the stores, and a further 70 in Head Office.

Glittering alumni: Keith Oates, the UK's joint managing director, is also a non-executive director of BT, and was formerly a member of the Sports Council of

Pay: Graduates start on £18,000, and there's a London weighting of £3,760. The company is particularly proud of its "exceptional" benefits package, which after two years with the company equates to an extra 30 per cent of the salary, and includes perks such as loans (for a car, 4 season ticket, business clothes, home improvements. education or buying a house), financial planning advice and temporary accommodation. For those changing career, salaries are from £19,500.

Training: M&S is recognised as one of the best trainers around, with emphasis on building technical, managerial and personal skills.

Facilities: An abundance of staff canteens offering subsidised meals.

Who's the boss? Chairman is Sir Richard Greenbury, also a patron of the Samaritans, who became chairman of the Israel-Britain Business

Council in 1995. RACHELLE THACKRAY

Make the workplace work for you

It's your life, and your career takes up a big part of it. So why waste time following the wrong track? By Meg Carter

ARE YOU the kind of person who always means to sort out your working self, but never quite gets round to it? Maybe it's a better salary you're after - or more responsibility, a change of career, or simply a better balance between work and play.

"All of us have got to take charge of our careers and take responsibility for what we want from an organisation - more than ever before," says Angela Edward, policy adviser at the Institute of Personnel and Development. Working life throughout the Nineties, she believes, has been epitomised by a single concept: "empowerment". Of course, many employers have used this term as a useful way of packaging downsizing and job insecurity. But there are ways of making the current employment climate work in your favour, she says.

The first step is to identify your goal - and the key here is objective self-analysis and honesty. "If you feel like you need a fresh start, ask yourself why. Only by being completely straight with yourself can you begin to work what you want to change, and how to bring it about."

Every Nineties employee can gain from practising this, agrees Alan Margolis, managing consultant at Hampstead Training Consultants. "Otherwise you end up working to someone else's agenda - to help someone else achieve their goals."

In fact, claims motivational expert Jurgen Wolff, although it's an obvious starting point, it's one where many of us go wrong and consequently give up. "One of the biggest problems many of us face is being stuck with old objectives. We foster an outdated image of ourselves. Ask yourself, is this something I still really want to do? And if it's not, don't be afraid to admit it, and move on."

The next step is to develop a campaign of action. "Identify what

talents or skills you have and what you will need to get to achieve your goal," Ms Edward says. "Will you get these opportunities where you are currently working, or should you move elsewhere?"

Dividing your overall goal into a series of smaller, easier, and quickerto-attain steps can help. "The stepby-step approach makes your goal more attainable." Mr Wolff advises.

Backing up your strategy by making practical changes on a daily basis is essential. If you want to be more assertive, for example, develop a more confident outward appearance. This will also help you prepare to ask for that pay rise you want. It's all part of developing a positive mental attitude, Mr Margolis says.

"Visualising success is a useful trick. If you imagine doing what you really want to do - how you would feel, what you might say - you are more focused on it," he explains. "Imagine yourself running like Linford Christie: you might not end up running as fast as him, hut chances are you'll end up running faster than you did before."

Negative thinking is a common stumbling-hlock. To help overcome this, Mr Margolis advises modifying

Identify your goals and

help the thought process.

prioritise them. Make a list -

putting it down on paper can

■ Ask yourself, "How realistic

willing to put in the time and

effort?" Self-unprovement

comes at a price - are you

prepared to pay it?

are my goals?", "What do I need to do to achieve them?" "Am I

your speech. "You can use language to fuel your engine," he explains, "Use T instead of 'one', 'it' or 'people' to be seen as more decisive and direct. Use 'how', not 'why'. Don't say you 'can't' do something, say 'I can if...'. Use the situation to negotiate."

Failure typically comes as a result of being typecast by other people.
"For all the talk of embracing change, people don't much like having it thrust upon them," comments Mr Wolff. "It can take time for people - even friends - to accept you in a new role. For some, then, it's best not to trumpet it, hut to get on with what you want to achieve: quietly." Alternatively, he adds, people can

give up on their goals prematurely as a result of failing to understand the delicate balance of performance with expectation: "When you start on something new, such as learning a new language, it's exciting and you learn a lot. But after a while, performance begins to plateau and your expectations race ahead. This is the point when many people give up - when success is just around the corner. Understanding this relationship is the key to overcoming the desire to give up," he says.

Making the time needed to realise

RESOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

■ When you have boned your

list, draw up a plan of action.

Break the process down into

basis, and monitor progress.

Once you feel more confident

about your decision, discuss

colleague, friend or expert in

the field - the two of you can

your advancement with a

smaller, more achievable steps.

■ Work on your goals on a daily



Identify your career goal - and go for it

your goals is an aspect of change that many people don't plan, adds Mr Wolff. "Many people fail to follow through their resolutions by overlooking the fact that learning something new will eat into your day."

Regularly monitoring your progress is fundamental - and also

makes a good excuse to reward yourself on a regular basis, which will spur you on. Some people work on achieving their goals alongside someone else - perhaps in the workplace - swapping plans, monitoring and encouraging each other along the way. In addition, talk to people who

have already done or are in the process of doing what you want to do. "If you want promotion or to change your career, are there any professional bodies or associations which might be able to belp?' says Mr Wolff. "Amidst all the talk about the importance of skills, it's easy to forget success often also comes down to who you know."

Ultimately, achieving your goals will come down to a combination of courage and perseverance. Forget all those reasons you used to put it off last year, Ms Edward says.

"January is a hrilliant time for a fresh approach. So do it now."

offer each other constructive

■ It is vital to keep a flexible

approach, since there are often

unforeseen opportunities and

pitfalls. Adaptable people tend

to achieve what they want far

more quickly than those who

they set down 18 months ago.

doggedly follow a plan of action

and regular updates.

criticism, gentle encouragement

THURSDAY REVIEW



Conferences *

A one-day international conference

Thursday 11 February 1999, QEII Conference Centre, London SW1

Technology and knowledge transfer is high on the Government's agenda as it seeks to develop a knowledge-driven economy. It is also increasingly important for UK universities as they seek to strengthen links with industry on a regional, national and international basis

This one-day international conference will explore the benefits of technology and knowledge transfer for universities and consider the factors which influence its implementation. It will feature examples of successful approaches to technology transfer from the US, Germany, Israel, Asia and the UK. It will also present a report of a visit by eleven UK Vice-Chancellors and technology transfer managers to the US in November 1998 which was supported by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

Speakers include:

Lord Sainsbury of Turville

Minister for Science, DTI

Derek Barker

Director of Projects, Office of Science and Technology (OST) Ronald Cohen

Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton

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tts institute of Technology (MIT) Entrepreneurship Centre and Senior Lecturer

Professor Howard Newby

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NATURAL RESOURCES CLUSTER CO-ORDINATOR Salary range £28-£32,000 per annum London WC2

The World Bank has launched a three year initiative for development co-operation between the corporate sector, the state and NGOs, entitled "Business Partners for Development" (BPD). In a fast-changing environment, it aims to study, support and promote examples of strategic partnerships between business, government and civil society which combine good business practice with the development of poor communities around the world.

One of four thematic "clusters," the Natural Resources Cluster is managed by a steering group composed of the World Bank Group, CARE International and participating companies. BP plc and CARE are the joint convenors. Field activities are undertaken through "focus projects" approved by the Steering Group and funded by member corporations.

Based at CARE International UK, the postholder will co-ordinate and administer the cluster's activities and core budgets, facilitate learning from focus projects, and promote the work of BPO and the Natural Resources Cluster.

The successful candidate will have at least 3 years experience in social development project management at field level, strong communications skills fitting a complex policy environment, a keen interest in corporate social investment and an understanding of the international development system. There will be some international travel.

The post is funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) as part of DFID's wider support for the initiative. Suitable candidates should send a CV to the Personnel Manager, CARE International UK,

Tower House, 8-14 Southampton Street, WCZE 7HA, or fax to: 0171 379 0543 For further details ring 0171 379 5247.

22nd January 1999 Closing date:

Interview dates: 29th January and 1st February 1999

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE Cannock Chase Council is successfully spearheading the regeneration of former coaliield areas with substantial CANNOCK
CHASE
COUNCIL
this economic regeneration posts offer the opportunity to contribute to
this economic regeneration through the development of transport
infrastructure and implementation of civil engineering projects in a
District which boasts Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural

> Group Managing Engineer (Projects) £26,535 - £28,464

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The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd January 1999 Group Manager (Transport)

£26,535 - £28,464 The Council is seeking to develop an Integrated Transport Plan for the District. This vacancy has arisen as a result of establishing a new group to address transportation issues. In addition to strategy the postholder will lead a team in preparation of feasibility studies for travel and transported related schemes. The Council has a comprehensive agency with the Council h The post would suit a person with knowledge of transport planning and possessing management skills. A post graduate qualification in a transport-related field is desirable though not assential.

If you wish to discuss either post informally, please ring Richard Haisman, Head of Engineering, on: 01543 454594.

The closing date for recent of completed application forms is Friday 29th January 1999 Planning and Property Services Division

Research and Information Officer £11,493 - £19,194 (Career Grade) The Job - You will assist the Planning Division and other Directorates, giving advice and support on matters relating to hids for resources from both United Kingdom Government and European Union Programmes. You will also assist in the collection, analysis and interpretation of information to support hids and the implementation of and monitoring of key strategy documents including the adopted Local Plan.

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If you would like an informal chat regarding the post, please telephone. 01543 452521 and ask for Mike Price, Local Plans and Policy Manager.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd January 1989 Friday 22nd January 1999

If you are interested and would like to be considered for any of the above posts, please telephone: 01543 462313 (24 hour answering service) for an application form or write to: The Human Resources Management Unit, Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Rose, Cannock, Staffs WS11 18G.

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Applicants should have experience in trade union organising lideally with a good oppreciation of the Organising Model methods) and collective bargaining, preferably in more than one industry or service. They will need to be able to demonstrate that they have the skills and competencies needed to meet the modern Organising role.

For further details please write or fax to: Martin Goodson at the MSF Centre, 33-37 Moreland Street, London, ECTV 8HA -Fax 0171 505 3030. You can also E-mail him on: goodsonm@msf.org.uk.

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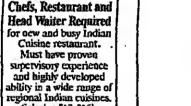
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Borefits

Director: Mark Herman

Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a rheumy eye on the big time. Brenda Blethyn mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple nigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as 8 garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, Brussed Off, was 8 whole and solid effort. Little Voice proves altogether more hitty and niecemeal. For, while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades Director: Edward Zwick in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in gestures and caricature and is in the same in the weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsen Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

T (15)

Fulham Road

Director: Darren Aronofsky Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of anteroom between maths lesson and art class, as Sean

Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't designer flourishes overrun the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is selfconsciously lugubrious. What sustains π is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill

PSYCHO (15) Director: Gus Van Sant

Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Vant Sant's

shot-by-shot Psycho reconstruction is a hizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; low-rent, Bermuda-shirted huckster with one a pitch-perfect hit of movie mimicry which has 8 definite curiosity value without ever quite trundles around in a hip-hugging mini-skirt as LV's adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Vîrgin Haymarket

THE SIEGE 1151

Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis

A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, The Siege winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, hut even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

> TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG) Director: Howard Hawks

Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacalt you?" line aside, To Have and Have Not has come to be more highly regarded for its behindthe-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a Casablanca cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. West End: Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above, West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by 8 stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelseo, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a hurgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep g" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

FLIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bondit Queen is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for in are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Ponton Street, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brothertype trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a topdrawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronei, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gandy swashbuckler gallops through 19thcentury California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U) Fige The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15) Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in Gray's thrilling drama, West End: Worner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trop catches Disney reheating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages to reunite their parents (Natasha Richardson, s true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Dennis Quaid). West End: Odeon Kensington, Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of- Odeon Swiss Cottoge, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic Dial M for Murder is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hitand-miss affair. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)

In this scattergum satire of middle-class mores. François Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. West End: Clopham Picture House, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over Insurrection hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more comball romance than we're used to. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square. Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Holly wood on a regular basis. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon, Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18) A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the

shifting landscape of Welsh's

tales. A cracker, all told.



The Dream Life of Angels (18) Erick Zonca's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier),

whose friendship comes alive amid the drah

environs of Lille.

In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her alling father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15) Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore

Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney the swooniest cinematic pairing of the year. My Name is Joe (15)

Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (above).

All that one would expect from a Ken

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Cottesioe) Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre) David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in Adrian Noble's imaginative RSC staging. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre) Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in this revival by Peter Hall.

Just Not Fair (Birmingham Rep) Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with the equivalent prison testament De Profundis, by Oscar Wilde (right). To 30 Jan

A Month in the Country

RENOIR

(5wan Theatre, Stratford) A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy.

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon

(Royal Academy) Life? Or Theatre?", Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches fell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic operetta in three colours. To 17 Jan



Neurotic Realism (Saatchi Gallery)

First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, madeup art movement, which, by a happy coincidence, consists entirely of works in his own collection.

Chris Ofili

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner (above) is an upheat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots. Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

(Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery) This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic

Grinling Gibbons

TOM LUBBOCK

<u>Cinema</u> WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) + Baker Street The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm. 4pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1,20pm, 3,40pm, 6pm, 8,30pm What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404)

Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) Discadilly Circus Hamam:

O Piccadilly Circus Hamam; The Turkish Bath 1,25pm, 3,50pm, 6,10pm, 8,35pm Something About 1.05pm, 3.30pm, There's 6pm, 8.25pm **ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**

(0870-902 0402) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Texas Chainsaw

Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm **ABC SWISS CENTRE**

(0870-902 0403)

◆ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 1.15pm 3.45pm, 6.15pm. The Eel 1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 8.45pm La Vie 1,25pm, 3,45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM

COURT ROAD 0870-902 0414) O Tottenhar Court Road Enemy of The State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) Moorgate/Barbican Dancing at Lughnasa 6.15pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) Sloane Square Little Voice 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) Clapham Common Enemy of the State 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm My Name Is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm Sitcom 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) & Green Park Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,8.45pm

CURZON MUNEMA (0171-369 1723) ← Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Elizabeth Chanson 8,50cm

CURZON SOHO Court Road 🛪 (Pi) 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm **To Have and** Have Not 2.30pm, 4.45pm. 7.10pm, 9.20pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) O Elephant & Castle Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE O Leicester Square The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm,

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) → Notring Hill Gale # (PI) 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm (+ Short: Drip Drop)

(0870-907 0718) ORavenscourt Park/Hammersmith

Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Psycho 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Sq. The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm. 9pm The Boys 4,15pm, 8,45pm Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) → Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm ODEON CAMPEN TOWN

(08705-050007) & Camden Town Enemy of the State 2.55pm Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 12.05pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Psycho 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Siege 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) ⊕ High Street Kensington Enemy of the State 12noon, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1,45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.55pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Psycho 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Siege 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) & Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Little 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Little Voice 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm The Siege 12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm 6.35pm, 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE Two Smoking 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm. 8.35pm The of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronth 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.20p There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5,40pm, 8.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) Swiss Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm. 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince of

Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm Psycho 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Siege 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm 6pm, 8.30pm 12,05pm, 2,45pm, 5 8,25pm Little Voice 1 4,10pm, 6,30pm, 8,55pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494_4153) & Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm Back the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

(0181-444 6789) & East Finchley Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.45pm PI AZA (0990,888990)

5.50pm, 8.30pm

3.10pm. PHOENIX CINEMA 11.40am, O Piccadilly Circus The Acid House 12.30pm, 3.20pm Babe: 1.10pm, Pig in the City 12.45pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm. 12.45pm

Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm The Truman Show 3pm,

(0171-837 8402) ⊕ Russell Square The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 2,15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 9pm RITZY CINEMA

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) 8R/Φ Brixton The Acid House 4,15pm, 6,45pm, 9,15pm Enemy of the State 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6,50pm, 9.25pm Fire 2.15pm Little Volce 12.55pm, 9,30pm, 5,15pm, 7.25pm, 9,30pm, (Fi) 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm (+ Short: the Albatross) Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 4,45pm, 7pm, 9,20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) & Baker Street Left Luggage 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Little Voice 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) Angel/Highbury & Islington (Pi) 3.05pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) Belsize Park x (Pi) 3.10pm. 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS

7pm, 9.20pm

 Bayswater/Queensway orny of the Opm, 9pm 6.10pm, 9pm Little Voice 4pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm. 5.50pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 9.20pm The Parent Trap 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Psycho 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm Rush Hour 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.10pm, 6.60pm Psychological Prince Insurrection 4.10pm, 6.60pm Psychological Psychologi 6.40pm, 9pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) + uare/South Kensington Enemy the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 45pm Out of Sight of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.45pm. 6pm. 8.30pm The Siege 12.45pm. 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm. 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) South Kensington The House 9pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Psycho 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712)

Piccadilly Circus The Acid House 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Psycho 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm. 4.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 12noon,
2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm,
5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince
of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm,
5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour
12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm,
7pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: 4.05pm. 6.10pm, Insurrection 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm What Dreams May Come 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) ♥ Leicester Square The Acid House 1.30pm, 6.40pm. 9.30pm 1pm. 4.05pm, 7pm, The Exercist (25th 9.35pm ersary Rerelease) 9pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 6pm Lock, & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Negotiator 11,40am, 2,40pm, 5,40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 12.50pm. 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm.

LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) ₱ Park Royal Enemy of the State 3.05pm, 8pm, Enemy of the State 3.05pm, 8pm, 8.55pm, 9.50pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm Psycho 4.40pm 7.10pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm The Siege 2pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ARNET
ODE ON (08705-050007)

High Barnet Enemy of the State
12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm Psycho 12.30pm,
2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8pm The Siege
1pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm,
3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

the State 1.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40nm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

nsurrection 12noon, 1.30pm,

BROMLEY ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Enemy of the State 2.55pm 5.40pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Siege 2.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

BR: Croydon West/East Gallipoli 6.15pm, 8.30pm (+ Whoosh) SAFARI (0181-688 3422)

Insurrection 6pm, 8.30pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.20pm, 4.50pm Psycho 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 7.20pm, 9.50pm

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592

Insurrection 2.40pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm What Dreams May Come 6.10pm, 8.40pm

(Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

Edward Burne-Jones

and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

(Victoria & Albert Museum) The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark.

CINEMA

ABC (0870-9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Enemy of

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)
BR: Bedeyheath Enemy of the
State 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm,
6.55pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm
Little Voice 12.10pm, 2.30pm,
4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 1pm, 3.50pm,
6.40pm, 9.25pm The Parent Trap
1.30pm, 4.10pm The Prince
of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.25pm
Psycho 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 5pm,
7.20pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour
7.40pm, 10pm The Siege 1.15pm,
4pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 12noon, 1.30pm,

2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 8.55pm, 9.45pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Carford, The Siege 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 8pm, 8.40pm CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)

BR: West Croydon Enemy of the State 5.30pm, 8.15pm Psycho 5.45pm, 8.20pm Star Trek:

The Siege 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come

2020) O Dagenham Heathway Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Parent Trap 15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.40pm, 6pm Psycho 1.40pm, 4.10 pm, 6.40 pm, 9.10 pm Rush Hour 2.30 pm, 5 pm, 7.20 pm, 9.40pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Star Trek:

VIRGIN LIXERIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 12.30pm 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Siege 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

EDGWARE BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) O Edgware Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8.15pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehndi phone for times
Mehndi phone for times
Naseeb phone for times
The Parent Trap 2,40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2,45pm,
5,40pm Wajood phone for times Zakhm phone for times

DEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990)

Tottenham Hale Antz 4.40pm, 7.30pm Blade 9.50pm Enemy of the State 2.20pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.20pm Little Volce 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Negotiator 8pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm, 5.35pm The Prince 5.35pm The Prince of Egypt 2.30pm, 5.25pm Psycho 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Rush Hour 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 10.05pm The Siege 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm, 4.25pm, 6.20pm, 7pm, 8.55pm, 9.35pm What Dreams May Come 8.25pm

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 6.05pm Enemy of the State 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 3.15pm, 9.50pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kudrat 2.40pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 3pm. 8pm, 9pm Naseeb 11.25am, 6.20pm The Parent Trap 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm Psycho 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Rush Hour 8pm, 10.15pm The Siege 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm Wa)ood 11.35am, 6.25pm

What Dreams May Come 6.55pm, 9.30pm Zakhm 2.55pm, 9.45pm NORTH FINCHLEY

6.10pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley/Finchley Central Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 4pm Psycho 1.55pm, 4.25pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 7pm, 9.10pm The Siege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 4.60pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3059) & Finchley Road Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 1.30pm, 4.10pm. 7.10pm, 10pm Psycho 1.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.20pm The Siege 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 2pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 10.10pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) O Golders Green Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm. 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Enemy of the State
3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm
Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm,
9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm

HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-902 0413) ABC (08/0-502 0413)

De Belsize Park Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Psycho 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Star Trek Insurrection 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) O Harrow on the Hill/Harrow of the Hill/Harrow of the Hill/Harrow of the Hill/Harrow of Wealdstone Doli Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Rudrat 8.45pm The Soidler (Asian Film) 1.30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) Harrow on the Hill Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.65pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm 7.25pm, 5.25pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm Psycho 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm The Slege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 1.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705-050007) Holloway Road/Archway Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 8.35pm Little Volce 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 7.55pm 2010 1.35pm, 5pm, 7.35pm The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm Psycho 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm Rush Hour 8.35pm The Siege 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Inaurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) Of Gants Hill Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.40pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm Little Volce 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,

45pm Psycho 12.40pm 3.20pm. 5.55pm. 8.35pm The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm 6.10pm, 8.40pm TRICYCLE CINEMA

The Age of Innocence 3pm Little Volce 6,30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Siam with 8.45pm performance only) KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Psycho 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL MUSWELL HILL ODE ON (08705-050007) Highgate Enemy of the State 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm The 5lege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek; Insurrection 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9,15pm Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Star Trek; Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley Enemy of the State 4.55pm, 8pm The Slege 5.10pm 8.10pm 5tar Trek; Insurrection 6.10pm,

PUTNEY ABC (0870-9020401) BR; Putney/ 9 Putney Bridge Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm 6.15pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.30pm,

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Enemy of the State 3pm. 6pm. 9pm Little Voice 2pm. 4.20pm. 7pm. 9.30pm The Siege 12.40pm. 3.20pm. 6.20pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5,40pm. 8.40pm Out Of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Psycho 2.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 2,25pm, 5,20pm, 8,10pm Psycho 2,30pm, 5,55pm, 8,25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm,

6.10pm, 8.35pm ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Little Volce 12.05pm, 6.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 8.50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: urrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 30pm What Dreams 8.30pm May Come 8.20pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Psycho 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.40pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 7pm. 9.20pm. The Siege 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm. 3.30pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/& Straitford Fast Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm,

6.50pm, 9.05pm STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) m Hill Antz 6.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm. 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection

2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 8.35pm ODEON (08705-050007) Streatham O Brixton/Clapham Common Enemy of the State 12.10pm. 2.55pm. 5.40pm. 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm Rush Hour 6.35pm, 8.35pm The Siege 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm. 8.40pm

Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS UC1 (0990 8889901 O Surrey Ouays Enemy of the State 4pm, 6.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.50pm Little Volce 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.05pm, 6pm. 9pm The Parent Trap 3.30pm, 7.15pm The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.40pm Psycho 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 10pm The Siege 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, What Dreams May Come 44.20pm, 6.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm What Dreams

May Come 9-20pm SUTTON U.C.1 6 (0990-888990) BR: 5utton/\(\Theta\) Morden Enemy of the State 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Little Volce 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm Psycho 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm The Siege 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) O Turnpike Lane Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Psycho 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Inaurrection 4pm 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705-050007) O Uxbridge The Siege 1.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Inaurrection 1.35pm, 4pm,

6.20pm, 8.40pm WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow Central Enemy of Walthamstow Central Enemy of the State 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 8.10pm The Siege 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames

Little Voice 3.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3,50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Psycho 3.40pm, 6,10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Wimbledon/O South Wimbledon Antz 12.15pm Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm. 6,30pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon The Parent Trap 12noon The Prince of Egypt 12,25pm Psycho 2,45pm, 6pm, 8,30pm The Siege 2,45pm, 5,45pm, 8,30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1,45pm, 4,05pm, 6.25pm. 8.45pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) O South Woodford Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.30 pm Star Trek; Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm. 6.10pm, 8.40pm

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Turnpike Lane Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 8.45pm Pardeshi

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 3.50pm, 6.10pm. 8.40pm The Siege 3,35pm, 6pm, 8,30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Sittom

(18) 6.30pm, 8.30pm ICA CINEMA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Angel Dust (15) 6.30pm. 8.50pm Sex/Life in LA (NC) 9pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) The Film Couch: Fuel: Event (NC)
7pm Mother Dao: The Turtle-Like (NCI 9pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank S£1 (0171-928 3232) To Have and Have Not (PG)
2.30pm. 8.45pm Casablanca (U)
6.10pm The Music Machine:
Discoland (NC) 6.15pm Little
Caesar (NC) 7.30pm Primary
Colors (15) 8.10pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 [0181-444 6789] Little Voice (15) 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.30pm. 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Lekester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Left Luggage (PG) 1.30pm Dead Man's Curve (15) 4pm Fire (15) 6.30pm Silding Doors

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Things Change (NC) 6.45pm + The Spanish Prisoner 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 1.30pm, 7pm Little

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503] The Mighty (PG) 2.30pm, 6.45pm π (PI) (15) 4.30nm. 8.50pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Inaomnia (18) 6pm. 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm. 8.35pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) The Fountainhead (PG) 1pm Sitcom (18) 3pm, 9.20pm High Society (U) 5.45pm His Girl Friday (U) 7.50pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) The Eel (18) 2.30pm, 7.30pm Casabianca (U) 6.15pm

Character (15) 8.20pm NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) The Horse Whisperer (PG) 2.45pm Out of Sight (15) 6.15pm Rien Ne Va Plus

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473 215544| My Name is Joe (15) 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm nia (18) 6pm, 8.15pm

NORWICH CNEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Governess (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm The Boys (18) 8.15pm

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week: running times include intervals.

— Seats at all prices D — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees - (1): Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, (5]: Thur, (6]: Fri, (7]: Sat

A ALADMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious measages Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Pricc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars aa Salieri la Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vk: The Cut, S£1 (0171-928 7616) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4(2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the nauseatingly optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street. SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/ ◆ Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm. £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

▶ ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza'a comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-369 1736) → Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (4(3pm, [7)[1) 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartooa version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)[7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

. BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charling Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369

 BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) Covent Garden/Charing X. sauly & Covent Garden/Charmg X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5,30pm & 8,30pm, Sat 5pm & 8,30pm, mats (1) 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees. 160 mins.

• CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072) + Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [3)(7) 3pm, £12,50-£35, 165 mins.

 CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical Adelphi Maiden Lane, WCZ (0171-344 0055) ⊕ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4](7) 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee).

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare
Company fast-forward through 37
plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1
(0171-369 1747) • Picc Circ.
Wat Care Let Jan 2016 Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10, 120 mins.

& 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm.

THE GLORY OF LIVING Dra-

ma set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new play-

wright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000)

◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 6 Feb, E10, concs E5,

GREASE Energetic stage version

of the hit film Cambridge Eartham 5treet, WC2 (0171-494 5080)

Ocovent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm.
[4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins,

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo-

pher Cazenove and 5usannah York

in Peter Hall's acclaimed productio

of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5045)

O Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4

3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£29.50.

) AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen

Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller.

Garrick Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-494 5085) & Lelc Sq.

Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm,)4| 2.30pm. [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25.

INTO THE WOODS Southein

and Lapine's acclaimed musical

• JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars

ia John Dowie's alternative Christmas show Apollo Shaftes-bury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm

& 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

• KAFKA'S DICK Eric Syles and Julia Mackenzie star in Alaa

Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly

Denman Street, W1 (0171-369

1734) O Picc Circ. In rep today 3pm

O LORD OF THE FLIES Stage

version of William Golding's classic

ale of schoolboys living on a deserted

island. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) O Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm.

) THE MEMORY OF WATER

Alison Steadman and Julie Sawalha star in this touching comedy about

three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville

5trand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) 8R/⊕ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm. (5((7) 3pm. £8-£27.50.

ends 6 Feb, £5-£16.

& 8pm. ends 26 Feb. £12-£30.

£15-£27.50.

£10-£32.50.

ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Oueen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30

[4]]7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of thre TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls.
 Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) + Lek So/Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm

Tue-Sat 8pm. [7] 3pm. (1] 5pm. ends 20 Feb. £6-£25.

her downtroddea family. Albery St Martin's Lane, WCZ (0171-369 1730) + Lelc Sq. Mon-Sar 7.30m [5][7] ends 27 Mar, £5-£29.50.

Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4([7] 3.30pm, £5-£25, 90 mins.

I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq. Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [5]]7] 3pm. £15-£35. 160 mins.

O THE INVENTION OF LOVE TIME toppard's play about the life of net AE Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm.

I'HEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

LONDON ARTS THEATRE Krapp's Last Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melacholic piece. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Fii & 5at 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£12. Great

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song at Twilight Noel Coward's dark autobury & Islington.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO Special Offer A couple play out their relationship in a real display bedroom. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, ends 23 Jan. £8, concs £6. The Cut, 5E1 (0171-928 6363)

I LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace 5haftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) 9 Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

a MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4)[7] 3pm,

£5.75-£35, 165 mins. • THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christle's whodunnif 5t Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) • Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) • Plcc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins. D RENT Musical inspired by La.

Soheme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221)

Holpom/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, (4))7) 3pm, £12.50£32.50. 160 mins. POVAL NATIONAL THEATRE

O CLVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oüver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller in rep tonight 7.15pm, ends O NT2000: The Playboy of the Western World Fiona Shaw reads the role of Pegean Mike in JM Synge'a landmark drama. Tonight 6pm.

OLYTTELION: Cleo, Camping, Emmanuetie and Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On ac-tors and recreates Sid James, Ken-neth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins.

O COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep tonight 7.30pm. ends 27 Jan. 145 mins,

discusses John Galsworthy's drama.
Jan 15, 6pm. Offwier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. N72000: £4. concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SEI (0171-452 3000). BR/ Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:

THE BARBICAN: Measure For

Holman's examination of the break-down in family relationships, in rep-tonight 7.15pm. Barbican: £5-£26. The Pit. £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, £C2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican/Moorgate. O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIS

1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

• THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs's contemporary cassic Sadier's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) 9 Holborn/Temple, Tonight 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

drew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, 5W1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. (3) (7) 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

I THE STREET OF CROCODILES Brune Scultz's short stories provide the laspiration for Theatre de ite's acclaimed and absurdist drama, Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040) & Picc Ctrc.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stara in Alan Ayekbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street. WCZ (0171-494 5075) O Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, (5)[7(3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mlns.

 VASSA Howard Davies directs a new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and

drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of Shosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WCZ (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq/

production of Bernstein's classic musical attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit.

Prince Edward Old Compton Street.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000) & Helborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7(3pm, £10-£32.50.

based on fairy talea. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [15.577 50 THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill'a chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) + Covent Garden/ Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

biographical play stars Corin Red-grave. Tonight 8pm, ends 24 Jan. £12-£13, concs £7. Upper 5treet. N1 (0171-226 1916) & Angel/High-

TRICYCLE THEATRE The Colour of Justice Dramatisation of the Stephen Lawrence case. Mon-Fri 8pm. Sat 15pm & 8.15pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-

wordless, 35-second play Breath, plus a question-and-Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London W1 (0171-836 3334) to 6 Feb

BLACK EYED PEAS are a LA-based M.C trio whose

funky-beats have gained commercial acciaim on the

back of Warren Beatty's Bulavorth soundtrack They

follow in the tradition of groups like Blackstar, DMX

and Company Flow, paying homage to the old school while adding musical elements of their own. Black

Eyed Peas' traditional hip hop is flavoured with Latin-

soul vibes and R&B. Trained in freestyle dancing and stage diving they put on an exiting live show.

IN SAMUEL BECKETT'S enigmatic exploration of time,

Krapp's Last Tape, Edward Petherbridge (right) plays

an old man obsessed with the past. Employing few

prope, this is a disturbing work that has little

dialogue apart from that coming from a tape Krapp

recorded 30 years ago, speaking about his lost love.

Petherbridge has been touring with the play for the past year and a half, and adds to London dates Beckett's

Empire Theotre, London W1 (0171-771-2000) 15 Feb

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

RATH THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eas-tenders stars alongside Only Pools And Horses' John Challis, Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs available. Sawclose (01225-448844)

answer session.

Last Call

BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM REP A Christmas
Carot Michael Bogdanov directs a
new adaptation of Charles Dickens's
Victorian tale of greed and redemption. Tonight 7, 15pm. ends 16 Jan.
£7.25-£19, concs available.
De Profundis Oscar Wilde's tour de
force of self-analysis, featuring Corin
Redgrave, Tonight 7.45pm, ends 29
Jan. £9, concs £7. Broad Street
(0121-236 4455)

THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the The AIRC ROTAL THE HONG AND DE-by Thought-provoking study of life in a vicarage from Middle Ground Theatre. Today 2,30pm & 7,45pm, 2,30pm, £6.50-£12.50. concs avail-able. Bond Street (01273-328488)

BRISTOL NEW VIC STUDIO Freebird Jon Ivay's black comedy about three motorcyle couriers on a dodgy mis-sion to Cornwall, Mon-Wed 7,30pm. Thu-Sat 8pm, mais Sat 2,30pm, ends 30 Jan, £9, concs £6. King 5treet (0117-987 7877)

CANTERBURY MARLOWE THEATRE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Ex-Blue Peter presenter Tim Vincent gets fes tive Today 2.30pm & 7pm. £8-£15, concs available. The Friars (01227-787787)

CHICHES TER CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Joseph and the Amazing Techni-color Dreamcoat Tim Rice and Anof the Bible story. Mon-Thus. 20pm & 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 5pm & 8pm, ends. 23 Jan. 28.50, cones available. Oak-

lands Park (01243-781312) ORCHARD THEATRE Aladdin Gladiator Cobra stars in this panle spec-tacular Tonight 2pm & 7.30pm. ends 17 Jan. £7.50-£14. Home Gardens

(01322-220000) **TPSWICH** WOLSEY THEATRE The Norman Conquests: Table Manners Alan Ay-chbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. Tonight

7.45pm. phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725) LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE 5ingin' in the Rain High water mark of Amer-ican musicals. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. E7-£19.50. Beigrave Gate

(0116-253 9797) NORTHAMPTON THE DERNGATE Aladdin's Cave of Entertainment Exciting family enter-tainment starring Billy Pearce as Al-addin and Victor Spinetti as Abaneza. Today 2pm & 7pm, £12-£15, concs available. Guildhall Road (01604-

624811) ROYAL THEATRE The Secret Life of Humpty Dumpty Panto style adaptation of the famous nursery rbyme. Today 2.15pm & 7pm. £9.50-£14, concs available. Guild-hall Road (01604-632 533)

NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE Jack and the Beanstalk Kenneth Alan Taylor writes and directs his fif-Notingham Playhouse. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 23 Jan. E9-£12, child £5-£8. East Circus 5treet (0115-

941 9419) PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat Thrilling ac venture story full of comedy musi and magic. Today 2.15pm & 6.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £5.75-£9.75, concs available. Embankment Road (01733-552439)

THEARRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Gladiator Scorpio and Su Poliard climb the giant beanstalk. Roday 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 30 Jan. £6-£15.50. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

POTTERS BAR THE MRL AT SONNING two Dozen Red Roses Comic love story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Set 8.15pm, mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb. £21.95-£32.95 Including dinner. Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

SEVENOAKS STAG THEATRE A 5perm Aside Existential love story. Tonight 8pm. £8, concs £7. London Road (01732-450175)

murder mystery. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 30 Jan. £5.50-£14.50, concs

available. London Road

(01702-342564)

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of 5T IVES TATE GALLERY Displays v's portrait of all-consum sexual desire. Michael Attenbo ough directs. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623) WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA PALACE THEATRE CENTRE Murder is Easy Stage adaptation of Agatha Christie's country house

ST IVES

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

1990s Contemporary art inspired by domesticity and everyday objects. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. ends 30 Jan. free. Penglais (01970-623232)

CAMBRIDGE bibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CHELTENHAM ART GALLERY and MUSEUM At the Sign of the Rain-bowr. Margaret Calkin James (1895-1985) Restrospective of de-signs, calligraphy and paintings. Mon-Sat 10am-5.20pm, ends 23 Jan, liee. Clarence 5treet (01242-237431)

BRITISH MUSEUM The Golden Sword: Stamford Raffles and The East Art and artefacts exploring the Te and work of the founder of Sin. gapore. Man-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 12noon-6pm. ends 18 Apr. E4, concs E2. Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1555)

DESIGN MUSEUM Conran Foundation Collection 1998 Items seected by the Director of the Motivation charity, Mon-Sun 11.30am-Spm, ends 31 Jan. £5.25, concs £4 (to museum), 5had Thames, 5E1 (0171-376 6055) O Tower Hill.

movement. Wed-Sat 11am-6pn Sun 12noon-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £2.50, concs £1.50, NUS free. 39a Canonbury Square, N1 (0171-

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS LIFE? or Theatre?: The Work of Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NUS £4, child 12-18 £2.50. child 8-11 £1.

(0171-300 8000) + Green Park. TATE GALLERY John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19thcentury artist. Ends 17 Jan. £6.

Art Now 16: Something is Missing - Jean-Marc Bustamante Installation exploring international cities in photographs. Ends 31 Jan.

1802. Ends 14 Feb. free. In Celebration: The Art of The Country House Paintings and sculpture, iacluding work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb. free. Millbank, 5W1 (0171-887)

Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th-century woodcarver. Ends 24 Jan

Precious-metal jewellery. Ends 15

Silver and Syrup: a Selection from The Collection Work by leading photographers throughout history. Mon 12 noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. £5. concs £3. disabled/UB40/m after 4.30pm free. Cromwell Road. SW7 (0171-938 8441) O South Kensington.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM 19th Century French Drawings Recent acquisitions aloogside Iamiliar major drawings, Ends 2a Feb. The Painterly Brush Oil sketches dating from the 16th to the early 20th century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free. Beaumont Street (01865-278000)

1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century and a selection of contemporary work. English Roots: Eric Cameron Thousands of layers of paint surrounding organic objects.
Outlift Montserrat: Veronica Ryan
Marble sculpture linking St Ives

CLASSICAL

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Jonathan Veira Songs by Finzi and others for bass barrione. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£13.50, 5mith Square. SW 1 (0171-222 1061)

WIGMORE HALL Andras Schiff The pisnist with an all-Schumann recital. Tonight 7.30pm, phone for availability. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street

OPERA

LONDON SADLER'S WELLS The Bartered

DANCE

LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: Cinderella Michael Corder's award-winning production. Today 2.30pm (Klimentova/Tewsley), tonight 7.30pm (Perego/Gruzdyev). £2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane. (0171-632 8300) Leicester Square.

PLACE THEATRE Resolution! Over 100 choreographers' work in Lon-don's important annual platform sea-son. Mon-Sat Bpm, ends 13 Feb. E8. concs E6. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) + Euston. ROUNDHOUSE Scomp Eight per-formers create a noisy rhythmic symphony. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat

Sun 4pm, ends 17 Jan. £10-£25 plus booking fee. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420.0000) Chalk Farm, ROYAL ALBERT HALL Cirque Du Solen: Alegria A celebration of contortimists, acrobats, aerial artists and fire dancers. Tue-Sun 7.45pm. mats

Sat & Sun 2.30pm, ends 24 Jan. E23.50-£45. Kensington Gore. SW7 (0171-589 8212) & High Street Censington. ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL The Royal Ballet: Romeo And Juliet Protofice's score, MacMillan's choreography and Georgiadas' designs. t 7.30pm (Durante/Mukhame-

dov). £10-£48. South Bank, S£1

(0171-960 4242) BR/@ Waterloo. LITERATURE

BOOKBINDING 1998 Examples from the 1998 Bookbinding Competition on display, plus short-listed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Fove Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) & Euston/Kings Cross. Mon. Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Tue 9.30am-8pm, Sat 9.30am-5pm,

COMEDY

Sun 1 Tam-Spm. free

£5, concs £3,50.

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON
THE LAUGHTER AKADEMY AT
AKADEMIA Anvil Springstien, Dean
Kelly, Brendan Riley, Paul Zenon, MC
Kevin Precious. Tonight 8.30pm,
Manchester Street (01273-709977)
F5 copys F3.50.

LONDON
TWICKENHAM COMEDY CLUB AT
THE CABBAGE PATCH Mark Maier,
Will Smith, Adam Bloom. Tonight
8pm. London Road, Twickenham
(0171-733 7753] £5. concs £3.
THE BEST IN STAND-UP with Keith Dover, Reginald Hunter, Bill Bailey, Paul Tonkinson, plus open spots,
MC Mickey, Hutton. Tonight 8pm.
Oxendon Street. SW1 (01426914433) ◆ Piccadilly Circus LONDON 914433) + Piccadilly Circus,

£12, concs £7. COSMIC COMEDY CLUB Jame Holmes, Marcus Brigstocke, Marian Kilpatrick, Paul Thorne, MC David Hadingham, Topinta, Spendingham adingham. Tonight 9pm, Fulham alace Road. W6 (0171-381 2006)

TWISTED NIPPLE IMPROV AT THE BEDFORD Comedy troupe led by Geoff Hughes. Tonight 9pm, Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756) → Balham, £4, concs £3,

ROB NEWMAN AT THE BUIL For-mer Mary Whitehouse Experience star. Tonight 8pm. High 5treet, Bar-net (0181-449 0048) & High Barnet, E9, concs £7.

CLUBS

LONDON MOVEMENT AT BAR RUMBA Starring the esteemed Doc Scott, Tonight pmg the estrement bot sour, ronight 9pm-3.30am, Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-287 2715) & Piccadilly Circus, £5, NUS £4, £3

VINYL EXCURSIONS AT POINT 101 Keb Darge plays northern soul and funk. Tonight 9pm-1am, New Oxford Street, W1 [0171-379 3112] O Tottenham Court Road, free,

before 10.30pm

EVENTS

LONDON
SESH - ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
STRETCHING Classes designed to
achieve flexibility, incorporating achieve Hexibility, incorporating bresthing and postures. Ancient Egypt Cultural Centre Cubitt Street WC1 (0171-434 1381] & Kings Cross. Mon/Wed 7am-8am & 7pm-8pm, Mon-Fri 12.15pm-1.15pm; £5 per session, concs £2.

Original artwork in celebration of the Warner Bros Studio's 75th year Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (last adm. Spm), £6.25, NUS £5.25, concs £4.50, un-der 5s free, family ticket £17.

BEHIND THE SCENES Portraits of technicians and artists involved in the making of British films, Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (last adm. 5pm). ends 26 Feb. £6.25. student £5.25. concs £4.50. under 5s free, family labor £17.

Moving Image (MOMI) South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3535) & Waterloo. Mon-5un 10am-6pm (last adm. 5pm), ends 19 May, £6.25, NUS £5.25, concs £4.50, under 5s free. family ticket £17.

10am-11pm, free. MERIDIAN WALK Move between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, tracing the history of England's oldest Royal Park, Tourist loformation Centre Greenwich

2.15pm. £4, concs £3. THE REALLY SENSIBLE SHOWS A touring exhibition exploring our five senses. Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road (01727-819340). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-

MUSIC

POP .

THE WEBB BROTHERS Jimmy

CHA CHA COHEN, BRASSY, EL HOMBRE TRAJEADOS Chemikal Underground's elusive female-frontational guitar groovers - with both New York and Leeds connections - finally release an album and

techno-jammers, playing their more beats-oriented second album Trop elator. Sound Republic Wardour. 5treet W1 (0171-413 1423) D Leicester Square, Tonight. 8pm. £6-£7.

MO'INDIGO Modern blues band led .. by Harry Lang. Station Tavern Bramley Road W10 (0171-727 4053] & Latimer Road. Tonight

8.30pm, phone for prices NEWPORT LLOYD LANGTON BAND Founder member of Hawkwind Hugh Lloyd Langton plays out with his current

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

DARTFORD

TOUGHT TENORS Ray Gelato and Alex Garnett revisit hard bop. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) ♥ Fulham Broadway. Tonight 9.30pm, £4,95,

fonight 8pm, £5. MOSE ALLISON TRIO Whimsical US vocalist Pizza Express Jazz Club

Trumpeter and long-running British jazz institution. University College School Theatre Frognal NW3 (0171-435 2215) & Finchley Road. Tonight 7.45pm. £6.

O NT2000: Strife Barbara Castle

Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's examination of justice. In rep conight 7.15pm, • THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert

• STARLIGHT EXPRESS An-

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's

port 5trees, WCZ (0171-836 3334) O Leicester Square.

BR/ Waterloo.

EXHIBITIONS

AREDVSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE Here to Stay: Arts. Council Collection Purchases of The

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable, Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistler, Fan-tin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Ex-

CHELTENHAM

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MU-Bawden Wide variety of work by the prominent graphic designer Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 23 Jan, free. Queen 5treet (01392-265858)

● Russell Square

ESTORICK COLLECTION Zang Turnb Turnb Exhibition charting the ditorial production of the Futurist

704 9522) Highbury & Islington.

rlington House, Picradilly, W1

Turner in the Alps Works on paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in

8000) & Pirnlico. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Elsewhere - Photographs from The Americas and Asia: Henri Carrier-Bresson Lesser-known subjects by the 90 year-old photographer Ends 12 Apr.

with Montserrat in the West Indies, the artist's birthplace. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor

Beach (01736-796226)

LOONEY TUNES: EXHIBITION

ticket £17. OOH! WHAT A CARRY ON: EXHI-BITION A celebration of 40 years of great British comedy from the Carry On team. Museum Of The

SHOW BUSINESS EXHIBITION Original designs illustrating theatre, opera, ballet and film, selected by Charles Spencer. National Theatre: Lyttelton South Bank 5E1 (0171-452 3000) • Waterloo, Mon-Sat

Church Street 5£10 (0181-8589.4. 6169) Bank/Tower Gateway, Daily

5pm, ends 17 Jan, free.

Webb's two sons, Moles Club George Street (01225-404445) Tonight 8.30pm, phone for prices.

play some gigs. Upstairs at the Garage Highbury Corner N5 (0171-607 1818) & Highbury & Islington. Tonight 8.30pm, E5. THE EGG Trance-inducing cosmic

NECK "Psycho-ceilidh" from London. Irish folk-rockers led by an ex-mem-ber of Shane MacGowan's Popes. Spinning Wheel Northfields Avenue, £aling W13 (0181-567 8348]. → Northfields Avenue. Tonight. 9.30cm. free. 9.30pm, free,

space-rocking project. TJ'a Clarence Place (01633-216608) Tonight

EL NINO Tenorist John Rangecroft ronts seven piece coatemporary outfit. Darenth Tavern Green Street (01474-703203) Tonight 8pm, free,

DON WELLER Postbop tenor saxist with bis quartet. Buil's Head Lonsdale Road SW13 (0181-876. 5241) BR: Barnes Bridge.

Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) 9 Tottenham Court Road, Tonigni 8.30pm, £12.50 (Fri-Sat £15) HUMPHREY LYTTELTON BAND

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ethersday review

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) **6.30** Zoe Balt. **9.00** Simon Mayo. the Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mils.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Comedy Clas-

sics: the Navy Lark. 9.30 Comady Showcase: Relax, See Pick of the Day, 10.00 Girls and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Alfinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex

[902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. RADIO 3 9.00 Masterworks. 11.00 Sound Stories. 10.30 Artist of the Week 12.00 Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See Pick of the Day. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Ensemble. 4.45 Music Machine. 5, **5.00** in Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Coiston Hall Bristol introduced by Chris Wines. Alexei Lubirnov (piano), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightanment/hertoer to be the Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave). Schubert: Symphony No 2 in B flat. 8.15 Book of the Month. An extended review of one of the month's most. interesting new publications. In 'The Dragon in the Land of Snows, Tibetan historian Tsering Shakya

draws on a mass of oral and archival sources to uncover the story of Tibet's struggle to maintain independence. In the first such history from a Tibetan writer, he looks at the subsequent story of Chinese attempts at unification and at the background to current and future developments in 3.35 Concert, part 2 Brahms; Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor.

1.00 The Directors (49608), 7.00 Fermies Fatales (84820), 8.00 The Long Walk

lorne (1990) (64356). 10.00 Hello Again

.30 The Long Welk Home (1990) 35560801), 3.20 The Fifth Dement (1997) 3489627), 5.30 Helio Agein (1987)

25207). 7.30 Hollywood Buzz/The Direc-

xs (9337). **8.00** Entertaining Angels 1996) (49998). **10.00** The Fifth Element

997) (74203356). **12:10** Blue Heat (1990) (25318). **1.55** If Lucy Fell (1996) (148318).

LOO Movie Magic Specials (41066), 7,00

(1995) 15.78). 11.00 Undercover Kid (1995)

amnation Aley (1977) (78820) 5.00 Un-ercover Kid (1985) (79627). 7.00 Man-equin (1987) (42917). 8.30 El News Week

Review (6511). 9.00 The Hijacking of

chool Bus 17 (1997) (40627). 11.00 No lay Back (1996) (576530). 12.35 Dead

.00 The Outlaw (1943) (8965424). 8.00 omanoff & Juliet (1961) (7363337). 8.00 y Fair Lady (1964) (23637646). 10.45

merican Gigolo (1960) (6757172). 12.45

ume in Love (1973) (1796516), 2.40 Bad

.00 His Girl Friday (1940) (7248511).

arton Fink (1991) (9686269), See Pick

the Day. 12.00 Miller's Crossing 390) (9835216). See Pick of the Day. 00 Blood Simple (1984) (2197757).

'00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures '25443). 4.30 Walker's World (1821627).

(1835820). 6.30 Hunters (222253

30 Beyond 2000 (1822356), 8.00 Dis-

ver Magazine (9221462). 9.00 Super

ser (9218998), 10.00 Skyscraper at Sea 211085), 11.00 Forensic Detectives

00 Flightline (1375606), 5.30 History's ming Points (1845207), 6.00 Animal Doc-

ory of Qiu Ju (1992) (90018467).

SCOVERY CHANNEL

JOO The Hudsucker Proxy (1994) 250356). See Pick of the Day. 10.00

np (1957) (4177009). 5.55 Close.

ang (1988) (753738) 2.20 A Self-Made ero (1996) (179689) 4.05 Movie Megic pecials (5970912) 5.05 - 7.00 Damna-

on Alley (1977) (63010202).

KY CRIEMA

LMFOUR

Mest

us (1976) (98743). 8.00 Mannequin (1987)

6172), 1.00 Gus (1976) (57066), 3.00

KY MOVEMAX

1987) (90608), 12,00 The Directors 13795), 1,00 Femmes Fatales (48202).

12.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq

introduces the first of three weekend's exhaustive Haydn string quartet festival at the Royal Northern College of Music. Today yon can hear the Brodsky Quartet tackling Op 54 No 2 in C and Op 76 No 4 in B flat.

> Comedy Showcase (9.30pm R2), a series of comedy pilots,

9.35 Postscript. Paul Neuberg con-

tinues his exploration of the Commu-

nist project which sought to use the

arts to remould people's minds. 4:

biggest Communist movement of the

The commitment of some prominent

volved radical shifts in creative agen-

das that were tenaciously resisted by

revelations about the Stalinist regime

10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeap-

writers and artists to the cause in-

others. Then, from 1956 onwards.

rocked writers' and artists' faith in

Communism throughout the world.

ing and Chris de Souza introduce

the second of two programmes of previously unheard treasures from

Music Restored's 1998 recordings.

land partsongs from Red Byrd, a

This week's selection includes Dow-

Biber violin sonata performed by the

Russian ensemble Musica Petropoli-

tana, a Handel suite played by harp-

sichordist Laurence Cummings, and

a cantata by Matthias Weckmann

played by the Purcell Quartet and

10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen ex-

plores the increasingly complex

ways we think about the human

body in art and science and talks to

speakers in this year's Darwin Lec-

tures in Cambridge, which take the

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

body as their theme.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(924-946MHz FM)

Poulenc, (R)

RADIO 4

6.00 Today.

Tha Red Mask'. In tha West, tha

thirties and forties was in France.

IN THE Radio 3 Lanchtime begins with Relax! Pauline Concert (1pm), Paul Allen Quirke (right), of Birds of n Feather, stars as the new owner recitals recorded during last of an upmarket health farm who turns up incognito and exposes the ingrained snobbery of her staff. Written by Terry Kyan, who penned The Brittas Empire, and starring Jeffrey Holland, perhaps it should have been called Rehash!

PICK OF THE DAY

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



صكذا من الاعل

9.00 NEWS; In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. 9.30 Transplantations. (R) 9.45 Serial: The Doctor the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. **TLOO** NEWS; From Our Own Corre-**11.30** Old Dog and the Partridge. **12.00** NEWS; You and Yours.

100 The World at One. 1.30 Hidden Treasures. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Dogs. 3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444. 3.30 Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Sceptred Isle.

4.00 Word of Mouth. 4.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Worriers. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 715 Front Row. Francine Stock presents the arts programme, including a look at the art of turning birdsong into music, as revealed by the French composer Olivier Messiaen. 7.45 Lady Susan, Drama: "Lady Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted by Lavinia Murray. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Steed (4/10).

8.00 NEWS; Case History. Professor Ray Parter reconsiders Anthony Eden's performance during the Suez Crisis. Was the British prime minister taking a cocktail of drugs to help him to stay alert and to help him sleep? Eden's widow Lady Avon, historians and doctors provide insight. 8.30 The Week in Westminster. Peter Riddell of The Times takes a look

behind the scenes at Westminster. 9.00 NEWS; Testbeds. Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that will shape our future. 9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg, Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight.

With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana, Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's novel 11.00 NEWS; World of Pub. A fourpart comedy by Tony Roche. 2: Things are looking bad for Barry and Garry. The pub is empty and they are on the verge of bankruptcy. When Barry says they need a mira-cle to sort them out, Dodgy Phil obliges. With John Thomson, Phil Comwell and Afistair McGowan. 11.30 Experimental Feature: The

Hand of Friendship. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 12.04 News Headines; Shipping

Forecast 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)

9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 100 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Hardest Game. Continuing the series in which former BBC boxing correspondent Harry Carpenter reflects on the sport from tha 1950s to the present day. The Greatest Heavyweight of Them All. Harry Carpenter remembers the phenome non that was Muhammad Ali. 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate tha issues that affect the sporting world.

9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene. 9.30 Sportshop. Trixle Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investi-

sporting gadgets. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Brian Hayes, Incl 10.30 Sport, 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

gations and news of all the latest

CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Balley. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick, 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. #L00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Mark Griffiths. 5.00 -8.00 Nick Bailey.

VERGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM 6.30 Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00 Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark. WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway, 1.45 Performance, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 100 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Peter Deeley, 5.00 The Sports Zone, 8.00 James Whale, 12.00 - 6.00 lan Collins.

Creatures Great and Small (1389801), 6.00

Dynasty (4864608). **2.00** The Cornedy Alternative: May to December (9631530).

7.40 The Cornedy Alternative: It Ain't Half

Hot, Mum (1747578). 8.20 The Cornedy Al-

ternative: Yes, Minister (3520240). **8.00** Pawity Towers (4644085). **9.40** Fewity

(92220443), 11.30 Bil (2477040), 12.00

1.25 Films Cameron's Closet (1968)

8.00 Thy and Crew (49687917). 6.20

The Bill (5873283). 12.30 Backup (1212509).

(3715115), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (2631844).

Towers (2542761). 10.25 Ivanhoe

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

IN A martial society, respect is all. The best way of engendering this is by beating (like other sportsmen chess players use considerably more colourful verbs amongst themselves) an opponent over the board. As long as the game wasn't disfigured by some ghastly blunder. you, or rather I, feel, once the volcanic emotions of defeat have abated, a grudging or even heartfelt admiration for somebody who has committed this outrage upon my person - and I presume that the

same extends to my colleagues. With the proliferation of strong players, however, it's become impracticable to lock horns with each and every one of them; and in a development in some ways analogous to the change from barter to coinage, rating systems were developed - which, indeed, at a professional level translate fairly directly to levels of remuneration to provide a numerical measure of these macho relationships.

All of which verbiage is only to introduce the eagerly awaited arrival of the January 1999 Fide rating list. Of course, we in this country have our own rating system (based as I explained a month and a half ago on the Financial Times Index), and it is that which is of importance to the vast majority of British players. But the list was certainly eagerly awaited by my colleagues and myself; and when a copy of the Top 100 was finally sent to Boh Wade - who among his many hats includes one as a Fide technical director - the phone lines and ether went into overnirive

Within a very short time, Mark Crowther had put it up on his 10 Nc3 Nd7 excellent home page - http://www. 11 Rd1 Qe7 chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html - 12 Bh1 e5

and shortly thereafter queries started appearing.

At the top, Gary Kasparov is down from 2,815 to 2,812 (for the first time ratings aren't being rounded to the nearest 5) but his only activity in the period was a sixgame match against Jan Timman, which wasn't supposed to be rated!

Additionally. Crowther had speedily received an e-mail from Veselin Topalov, who had been rated for 11 games too many: it seems that Tilburg was rated twice - which affects a dozen players at the very top.

With those serious reservations the current list continues: Anand 2,783, Kramnik 2,740, Shirov 2,725, Morozevich 2,723, Ivanchuk 2,714. Leko 2,711. Karpov and Adams 2,710, Svidler 2,703 and Short 2,697. The other top English ratings are Sadler 2,676, Miles 2,609, myself 2,601 and Nunn 2,600.

Just room for an allegedly currently double-value miniature from Tilburg. Lautier lost far too much time in the opening. At the end if 24 ... Nxd1 25 Qf4+ g8 26 Rg3+ Bg4 27 Rxg4+ Kh7 28 Qg5 and mates or if 24 ... Be6 simply 25 Rde1.

> White: Vladimir Kramnik Black: Joel Lautier Tilhurg 1998

Queen's Gambit Slav 1 d4 d5 13 0-0 exd4 2 Nf3 c6 14 exd4 Nb6 3 c4 e6 15 Qd3 g6 16 Rfe1 Qb4 4 Qc2 dxc4 5 Qxc4 Nf6 17 Qd2 Nc4 6 Bg5 Be7 18 Qxh6 Nxb2 7 e3 0-0 19 Bxg6 fxg6 20 Ng5 Bxg5 8 Bd3 h6 9 Bxf6 Bxf6 21 Qxg6+ Kh8 22 Qh5+ Kg7 23 Qxg5+ Kf7 24 Re3! 1-0

POKER DAVID SPANIER

PADDY JOE was mightily miffed. A gambling kind of player who could win a packet, go broke, borrow a few quid and come back from the dead, all in the same night's play. he was on his best behaviour. Watchful and sensible. So when he found Q-Q in his hand at Omaha. and the flop came down Q-7-2 offsuit, he was thrilled.

This is the only flop at Omaha if you start with Q-Q, which does not offer a straight draw to your opponoted by the p statistician Dr Mahmood Mahmood in The Science of Poker). So when the betting came round to him, Paddy checked. He wanted the others to stay in.

On any other sort of flop he would certainly have bet, to force anyone drawing to hit a straight or a flush to pay for the privilege. What could go wrong? On the very next card a king came down. And someone had a pair of kings in the hole. It cost Paddy his whole stack.

Omaha is a game of had beats. Here is another Irish calamity which befell the Dublin player Donnacha O'Dea. He was dealt 9h-10c-Jh-Jc (double-suited) and raised. The flop came down 2-7-8 with two of his hearts showing. Now Donn has a higher pair than the hoard cards, an open-ended straight draw, and a flush draw in reserve.

Hanif, a strong player, now bet £600. He was probably shooting a bow at venture, hoping to set up a hluff on the next card. Donn knew him well enough to know his style of play. Next card off was a 4. Hanif now bet £1,600. As it turned out this was the only card in the whole deck which could help him! He had come in on a speculative holding of been a heart, giving Donn a flush, a 6 would have given him a higher straight, and a pair on board would still have left Donn with his jacks as too pair.

When Hanif bet (this was the big game, now reinstated at the Grosvenor Victoria casino in Edgware Road. London) Donn thought about it and then raised for the rest of his money, another £1,400. He wanted to be sure of getting paid off on the river if he hit his hand.

But the last card was irrelevant. When Hanif showed his trip 4s, Donn stared at the cards for two or three minutes before he took in what had happened. "When a good player makes a bad play, it does sort of shake you," he admitted ruefully.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

our of th finest are showcased tonight, starting with The Hudsucker Proxy (8pm FilmFour), their homage to Capra, in which Tim Robbins is pulled from the mail room to challenge the way corporation. It continues with:

THE COEN BROTHERS' films are he is brought to LA to work distinguished by a marvellously for Hollywood producer Michael (12am), a finely written 1930s crime drama which sees Gabriel Byrne (right) using unothodox methods to save his boss, Albert Finney; and Blood Simple (2am), their creepily atmospheric low-Paul Newman is running a giant budget tribute to film noir which stars Frances McDormand, Barton Fink (10pm), in which the actress who went on to win arty playwright John Turturro an Oscar in their Forgo. experiences writer's block when **JAMES RAMPTON**



(3815573). **1.00** History's Turning Points (4097592). 1.30-2.00 Flightline (9582283).

7.00 Court Duckuta (89153), 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (82882). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (92578), 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (79337), 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (97172). 1LOO Guilty (84608). **12.00** Jenny Jones (29135). **1.00** Mad about You (88424). **1.30** Jeopardy (20849), 2.00 Salry Jeesy Paphael (75462). 3.00 Jenny Jones (47563), 4.00 Guittyl (27268), 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (2566), 6.00 Married with Children (9191). 6.30 Dream Team (7153). 7.00 The Simpsons (3288), 7.30 The Simpsons (6627). 8.00 Americals Dumbest Criminals (9606) 8.30 World's Weirdest TV (1443). 9.00 Friends (16172). 9.30 E R (77801). 10.30 Veronicals Closet (73443), ***LOO** Dream eem (28917). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep

(32196). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (5962592). SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (3196397). 7:15 World Wresting Federation Shot Gun (898511). 8:15 Sky Sports Centre (4208606). 8:30 Racing News (54917). 9:00 Aerobics Oz Style (45289), 9.30 Youte on Sky Sports (72801), 10.00 Rafting: White Weter World Championships 1998 (46462), 11.00 European Tour Golf Magazine (52996). 11.30 European Tour Golf (242207). 2.30 Ringside (85725). 4.00 Pool (76578). 5.00 stling Federation Superstars (4559), 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1191).

Space Nine (74004), 12,30 Highlander

6.30 Footbell League Review (36795). 7.30 European Tour Golf (102620), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (685443). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (712998), 10.45 Trans World Sport (486356), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (588269), 12.00 You're on Sky Sports (7515), 12.30 Furbol Mundal (38196). 1.00 Spanish Football (66689). 3.00 Trans World Sport (52757). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (15794979), 445 Close(). SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (9692998). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (9189682), 7.45 Racing (8927801). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (9004375). 8.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (6155820). 9.30 Fish TV - Tony Dean Out-doors (7600998), 10.00 Pool (9600917). t1.00 Figure Sketing (7211714). 1.00 Foot-bal (4734191). 2.30 Watersports World (2381375), 3,30 Sports Unlimited (3866725), 4,30 Unbelleveble Sports (497172), 5.00 Football League Review (3071443), 6.00 What a Weekend (907) 44-3; 6-30 What a Westard (485337), 6-30 The Rugby Club (236606). 7.30 Ice Hockey (3294673), 10,00 The Rugby Club (8624578), 11,00 Tight Unes (960)646), 12,00 Inside the PGA Tour (4780370). 12.30 Ford Golf USA (6923979). 2.30 The Rugby Club (2911234). 3.30 -7.00 Cricket Australia v England (2457283).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Supr tars (68044004), 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (66214917). 1.30 Fish TV · Tony Dean Outdoors (68024240). 2.00 Sky is (66214917). 1.30 Fish TV - Tony

Sports Classics Cricket: England v West Indes 1995 (13832559), 3.00 The Entertainers (19565004), 3.30 Fastrax (42603066). 4.00 Badminton (19569820). 6.00 Survival of the Fittest (42632578). 6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (42616530). 7.00 Tight Lines (40004269), 8.00 Spanish Football (40017733), 10.00 Bobby Chariton's Football Scrapbook (50646207), 11.30 Close. ELIROSPORT

7.30 Raily: Total Granada Daker 99 (42645), 8.00 Snowboarding (29917), 9.00 Biathlon (94733), 10.30 Luge (59849). 11.00 Raily: Total Granada Da (47065), 11.30 Stathion (47443), 1.00 Car on los (22882). 1.30 African Cups (5453). 3.30 Biathion (82988), 5.00 Snowboarding (9627), 8.00 Trial (38004), 7.30 Motor Sports (20578), 8.30 Boxing (32462), 9.30 Raily: Total Granada Dakar 99 (98849). 10.00 Truck Racing (88801). 11.00 Motor Sports (49559), 12.00 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (60283), 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (1935379), 7.30 Neighbours (9015578), 7.55 EastEnders (1945337), 8,30 The 58 (8304288), 9,00 The 58 (8388240), 9,30 The House of Hott (2337443), 10.30 Angels (8384424) 1L00 Delles (6719559), 1L55 Neighbours (98598207), 12.25 EastEnders (7405511). 1.00 Julet Bravo (4877172), 2.00 Dallas (1917820), 2.55 The 88 (1437337), 3.25 The Bill (6657004), 3.55 EastEnders (3351207), 4.30 Angels (1823085), 5.00 Al

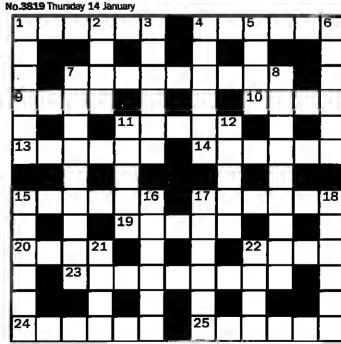
Philbert the Frog (29563004). 6.30 Johnson and Friends (64361820). 6.45 Tiny Tales (17795337), 6.50 Polica Dot Shorts (17708530), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5089172). 7.05 Professor Bubble 5043153), 7.30 Callou 5973646), 7.35 Bug Alert (8013882), 7.55 Practical Parent ing (8594998). 8.00 Barney and Priends (2785627). 8.30 Try Tales (7210996). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (8661608). 8.50 Practical Parenting (9170996), 9.00 Diet Show (2708578), 9.30 The Roseanne Show (3705068). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show

(6553511). 10.50 Maury Povich (5217578). 11.40 Brookside (56101820), 12.10 Animal Rescue (74392085). 12.40 Rescue 911 (19410172). 140 Special Babies (23778511) 1.40 Beyond Befef (79343882). 2.40 LA Lew (3399207). 3.40 Living Poom (7225288), 4.00 Michael Cole (4812511) 4.50 Rolonda (1057545). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (7553578), 6.35 The Jerry Springer Show (781207), 7.05 Rescue 911 (4931917), 7.35 Animal Rescue (9314337). 8.00 Murder Call (7362608), 9.00 Films The Secretary (1994) (7365795), 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (3425608), 12.00 Closs.

9.00 Mutiny on the Bounty (1962) (58156789), 12.15 The Outfit (1973) (13715221), 2.15 A Very Private Affair (1962) (88561776), 4.00 Barbara Starwyck: Fire and Desire (77339405), 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Ciueless (6530), 7.30 Desmonds (6269), 8.00 Roseame (2578), 8.30 News radio (1085), 8.00 Cybii (63004), 9.30 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (51795). 10.00 Fras er (57004). 10.30 Cheers (33424). 11.00 Seinfeld (75849). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (27849). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (62202), 1.00 Taxi (16196), 1.30 The Critic (53115), 2.00 Dr Katz (49573). 2.30 Sosp (28080), 3.00 Tibs and Fibs (29660), 3.30-4.00 Nightstand (42660).

CONCISE CROSSWORD



REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

C1 N BRELAND **BBC1 London except: 6.30** C1 SCOTLAND

BBC1 London except: 2.55 aman (3622627). 3.10 Dochalch Mor key Doke) (9971608). **6.00** News). 6.30 Reporting Scotland (191). C1 WALES

BBC1 LONDON & SE except: Wales Today (191). 2.05 Joins BBC vs 24 (74373844).

Cariton except: 12.20 Angla vs and Weather (6982559). 1.00 Up-I (1229882). 1.35 Home and Away 384808). 2.00 The Jerry Springer w (2806917). **3.20** Anglia News and ther (2983801). 5.10 Shortland et (9654630). 6.00 Home and Away 546). 6.25 Anglia News (131284). 30 Anglia News and Weather 1917). 12:10 Tales from the Darkside 37757). 12.40 The Jerry Springer w (7753592). 1.25 Firm: St Ives 2134), 3.00 Box Office America 57). 3.30 Cybernet (35757). 4.00

Murder, She Wrote (2757757). 4.50 ITV CENTRAL

As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6982559). 1.00 Echo Point (57530), 3.20 Central News (2983801). **5.10** Shortland Street (9654630). **6.00** Home and Away (116337), 6.55 Lifeline (249424), 10.30 Central News and Weather (283917). 4.05 Jobfinder (6918370). 5.20

HTV WALES. As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (24132443). 12.15 HTV News (9359511). **1.00** Shortland Street (1229882). **1.35** Home and Away (65384608), 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2806917), 3.20 HTV News (2983801). 5.10 A Country Practice 9654630), **6.00** Home and Away 131646). 6.25 Wales Tonight (131284) 7.30 Somewhere in Wales - St Fegan's at Fifty (443). 10.30 HTV News (283917), 12.10 We Can Work It Out (5987757). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (7753592). 1.25 Film: St Ives

(722134), 3.00 Box Office America (12757). 3.30 Cybernet (35757). 4.00 Murder, She Wrote (2757757). 4.50 ITV HTV WEST

Wast Weather (470172). 6.30 The West Tonight (559). 7.30 We Can Work it Out (443). 12:10 Jenny (5987757). MERIDIAN As Carlton except: 10.30 This

Morning (24132443). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (9359511). 1.00 Shortland Street (1229882). 1.35 Home and Away (65384808). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2806917), 3,20 Meridian News and Weather (2983801), 5.10 Home and Away (9654630), 5.37 Crimestoppers (866820), 6.00 Meridian Tonight (207), 6.30 Getaways (559). 10.30 Meridian News and Weathe 283917). 12.10 Jenny (5987757). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (7753592). 1.25 Film: SI Ives (722134), 3.00 Box Office America (12757), 3.30 Cybernet (35757), 4.00 Murder, She Wrote (275/757). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (63405880), 5.00 Freescreen (91776).

WESTCOUNTRY

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (24;32443). 12.15 Westcountry News (935951). 12.27 illuminations 3.20 Westcountry News (2983801) 6.00 Westcountry News (280301), 6.00 Westcountry Live (59337), 10.30 Westcountry News (283977), 12.40 Public Morals (5967757), 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (7753592), 1.25 Firm: St Ives (722134), 3.00 Box Office America (12757), 3.30 Cybernet (35757), 4.00 Murder, She Wrote (2757757), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (6399979).

As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar News (6982559), 1.00 Home and Away 82551337). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (8495288), 2.10 Emmerdale (3024356). 3.20 Calendar News (2983801), 5.40 News (143240), 5.55 Calendar (710153), 6.30 Tonight (559). 10.30 Calendar News (283917), 4.20 Jobfinder (8170115). TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North

East News and Weather (6982559), 3,20 North East News Headlines (2983801), 5,55 North East Weather (853356).

6.00 North East Tonight (59337). As Channel 4 excepts 9.00 Yago-

Non/Schools (10841559), 12.00 Be-witched (16570172), 12.30 Sesame Street (38572646), 1.00 Planed Plant (47909849), 1.30 Roots to Success 50849), 145 Macbe 4.30 Ricki Lake (56260172). 5.00 Planed Plant: Uned 5 (96939202). 5.30 Countdown (56251424). 6.00 Newyddion (69130714). 640 Heno (95832511). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (37543518), 7.30 Newyd-dion (56261801), 8.00 Penblwydd Hapus 190539266), 8.30 Pam Fi Duw? (15389583). 9-90 i dot (70227268). 10-00 Father Ted: Cornedy series re-volving ground the lives of a group of on a small Irish island. Father led's chance of TV stardom is thwarted by his fellow priests (1657/801), 10.30 by his fellow priests (1657/801), 10.30 Friends (\$1613240), 11.05 King of the Hill (85763/99), 11.35 Whose Lina is it Anyway? (89744578), 12.05 Bob and Margaret (57108399), 12-35 Dispatches: Documentary which looks at the tragic consequences of operations performed by surgeons who fall below acceptable deal standards (66724554), 1.05 FL medical standards (66/245) del (70393641). 1.35 Close.

Senior police officers (6) Venetian painter (6) Moving stairway (9) Unattractive (4) Vegetable (4) Part of jacket (5) 13 China clay (6) 14 Probable (6) 15 Bifurcated (6) 17 Vietnamese river (6) 19 Stratum (5) 20 Globule (4) 22 Sweet wine (4) 23 Size (9) 24 Lethal (6)

ACROSS

DOWN Impressed (6) Simple (4) Marmer (6) Go on journey (6) Accepted (4) To wit (6) Space to manoeuvre (5,4) Runner (9)

Written defamation (5) 12 Passenger ship (5) 15 Legendary (6) 16 Delicate (6) 17 Wise counsellor (6) 18 Profited (6) 21 Poet (4)

22 Cutting tool (4) 25 Staggered (6) Salution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Butt, 3 Terraced (Buttressel, 9 Taboo, 10 Fuchsi, 11 Hod, 13 Morse code, 14 Incurs, 16 Myriad, 18 Pessimism, 20 Nib, 22 Scottle, 23 Await, 25 Enduring, 26 Fete, DOWN: 1 Batch, 2 Tub, 4 Effort, 5 Rickety, 6 Custodian, 7 Dead-end, 8 Form, 12 Dachsbund, 14 Impasse, 15 Roister, 17 Pigeon, 19 Mean, 21 Bathe, 24 Aze.

£ 25

HURSDAY VISION

ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

BBC

10

heel Portillo have some

r-to-bruvver chat onship with Louis

Regional News; Weather (T) (7207)

AND NANNIES (Bpm C4, right) Another formerly shy on opens its doors to the docu-sosp – topically so, it ut, in the wake of the Government's decision to set up ry registration of namy egencies. This time, it's the

MEET THE ANCESTORS (9pm BBC2, fight make a strange sound when they become extike u young buy who's heen given free rein in Julian Itielan'ds abeard; expressive lumb.

t) Archaeologists ciled – rather a a sweet shop.

ements) is rk. At the bottom red n lend coffunis very lall man

e? Why was he cast-west? And

HISTORY SHOW OF TH

IE DAY

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

Kelsey Grammer

Favourite Episode

ours. Joel decides to meke e move on Selly. convinced that ello is being followed (282579)

10

6.00 Veta in Practice. A cow has collapsed. And that an injured woodpecker (S) (T) (7808).

BBC2

Working Lunch (70820). 1.00 Fiddley Foodle Bird (R) (S) (73870882). 1.10 The Arts and Crafte Hour (S) (2485424). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (22116820). 2.40 News; Regional News; Wealther (T) (8959085). 2.45 Westininster (S) (T) (2574694). 3.26 News; Regional News; Wealther (2995946). 3.30 Hot Shote (6436049).

7.30 First Sight. With supermarkets increasingly dominating the high-street retail scene, con entell shops survive? (917).

(S) (T) (8578).

il suspects respond to Bret and the R5C production of The

London Tonight. Regional news update for the capilni and the South-Eost, including a local weather bulletin (T) (207).

7.30 We Can Work It Out, Judy Finnigen looks at consumers' rights to a refund when electrical goods are

defective (S) (443).

b.00 The 9ill. Another yern from the reinvigorated plod sortp. An undercover officer goes missing white investigating illegal gambling (T) (7795).

Weather (T) (40191)

30 London Tonight (1) (283917).

40 Thursday Night Live. Nicky Campbell turns up the gas beneeth another studio sudience (S) (9195004).

2.10 Public Morels (5829592), 12.45 The Jerry Springer Show (7752883), 1.30 Pirete TV (7851973), 1.55 Real Slories of the Highway Patrol (5638979), 2.45 ITV at the

..30 Videotech. Mergherita Taylor with the latest cherts and "gossip" trom the music world (S) (559).

LOO Emmerdale. It's getting messy in this attarnetive-universo Yorkehire. Kathy delivers some shock evidence, and Chris discovere Kirn's biggest secret (S) (T) (6356).

5.00 D:0163 Norland Nennlee. Docu-sosp about the post nanny school. See Documentary of the Day, below

5.30 Secret Lives: Princess Margaret. Another chance to see Ann Hawker's portrait of the Qusen's sister (R) (S) (T) (2153).

8.00 Dispatches. Chennel 4's investigative flagship returns to its 1999 story which exposed the racord of two cardiac surgeons performing open-heert surgery on babies at the Royal Bristol Infirmary. Tonight's film cleims that the situation in Bristol was not e one-off and thet e similar case could erise elsewhere in the

10.00 Flaing Damp, Alen (Richerd Beckinsale) gives Rigsby tips on comforting a heartbroken Ruth (R) (T) (48733).

11.00 Ally Mc9eel (R) (S) (T) (880849). **1 Leter: Oz** (125559), **12.55** 4 Leter: Vide (5910573), **1.25** 4 Leter: A Feather Tale (4893370).

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (8984714), 2.15. Home and Away (S) (T) (639337), 2.45 Date's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (637508), 3.15 ITN News Heedlinae (T) (2983286), 3.20 London Today (T) (2983801).

9.00 Chennel 4 Schools: History in Action (647751).
9.20 Geogrephicel Eye over Britain 1 (8497375).
9.40 The English Programme (7293462).
10.00 Middle English (6265443).
10.20 Fourwaye Farm (4792375).
10.30 Scientific Eye (3125578).
10.50 What the Papers Said (292051).
11.00 The Number Crew (9872240).
11.10 Chennel Hopping Auf Deutsch (1451714).

8.00 \$ News and Sport (S) (7804917, 7.00 WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (9992820), 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (8954563), 7.35 Minzle's House (R) (9623733), 8.00 Havakezoo (R) (S) (1063424), 9.30 Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (1062795), 9.00 Animal House (R) (2576207), 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcarde (4998462), 9.30 Tha Oprah Winfrey Show (6422269), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2020917), 11.10 Leeza (R) (S) (2900443), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (106651), 12.30 Family Affeirs (S) (T) (9832240), 1.00 The Bold and the Secutiful (S) (T) (999191), 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (8937511), 2.00 100 Per Cent (S) (6252511), 2.30 Good Atlemoon (S) (A451775)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (5) (52085).

Channel

hannel

THE THURSDAY REVIEW The Independent 14 January 1999

.10 Home end Away (S) (T) (9654830).

.40 Newej Weather (T) (806207).

3.30 Hempton Court Pelace (337). 4.00 Filteen to One (S) (172). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (1825608). 4.85 Ricki Leke (S) (4736086). 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (608).

6.00 blehee. Three hopeful contectants cook up a dish to win a dinner date in a top restaurant (T) (849).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weether. Including heedlines at 7.30pm (5) (T) (737240).

10.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? Another edition firmed in Iront of an American audience, with Colin Machrie, Ryan Sities, Bred Sherwood and Deboreh Wilson doing the improvisation (2453).

IZIM Holiday on the River Yarre (Leo Berkeley 1991 Aus). Two bored Austrellen teenagers become marceneriee in this true-life tale (96497). To 5.15am.

Carlton

Trishe (S) (T) (3565733), 10.30 This Morning (T) (85251820), 12.20 Your Shout (6982559), 12.30 No. (86251820), 12.400 London Today (T) (8753)

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (7) (2973424). 3.35
The Adventures of Dawdle (S) (8422848). 3.46 The Sylvestar and Tweety Mysteries (T) (8402982). 4.00
Lavender Castle (T) (6923153). 4.15 Hey Amold! (T) (8339976). 4.40 The Worst Witch (S) (T) (7018559).

11.30 Powerhouse (1882). 12.00 Seseme Street (47004).
12.30 The Oceen World of John Stonemen (72289).
1.00 Pet Rescue (R) (S) (T) (55172). 1.30 The Oceen World of John Stonemen (33011379). 1.50 IIII Way of a Gaucho (Jecquee Tourneur 1952 US). Rory Celhoun and Gene Tierney are the couple trying to make a go of life in the Argentinian pampas of the 1870s (61520269).

3.30

US). Diseppointing "biographical comedy" sterring Richard Pryor es Wendell Scott, the lirst bisck stock creer. A heelthy supporting cast includes Seeu Bridge

6.30 Hollyoaks. It's the dey of the college ball (S) (T) (801). 9.30 Family Attairs. Yasmin buys Josh a nipple ring. See what you're missing? (S) (T) (5104172).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (5113820).

5.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (6084795).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. Kirsty Young trundlas olf with the headlines (S) (B2B3627).

7.30 Champions of the Wild. The 'wild" is a bit of a misnomer with all these nature films, which seem to be shout conserving animals whose hebitet has bean well and truly tamed. Tonight, see turilse (S) (T) (5)00356).

9.00 The Pepsi Chart (S) (6272375).

9.30 Fernity Confidentiel. A 14-yeer-old boy prepares for his GC5Es while looking efter his 10-month-old beby. The mother is a former homeless girl taken in by the

9.00 [][M] A Strange a dreaduily conventi

10.80 Sex and Shopping. Looks at lesbian scenes in porn tilms and asks why men find them so appealing, all of which sounds a like en opportunity for Channel 5 to show some pornographic lesbian scenes (S) (3301240).

11.20 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (8976085) 12.00 Live end Dangeroue (S) (8515853) 12.40 Live and Dengerous (continued) (S) (79187486) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (R) (S) (3929592) 5.30 100 Per Cent (8954347). To 9am.

TELEVISION GUIDE IN GERARD GILHERT

FILM OF THE DAY

SHINE (930pm BBC1, right) Artistic schmaltz which had then blubbing in the aisles e couple of years back – those, that is, who weren't put off by yet another variation on that old musiclan-suffering-for-his-art tune. Geoffrey Rush gives en Oscar-winning performance as Australien planist David Helfgott, e shambling genius who shocks his music teacher John Gleigud in a terribly cliched vole) by attempting Rachmanirov's No 3 "nobody has ever been med enough to strengt the Rach 3!"). For the record, critics were less than



"A SHINE FOR CELLISTS" PICK OF THE DAY , a feanal to in with the

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MANUARY 1999

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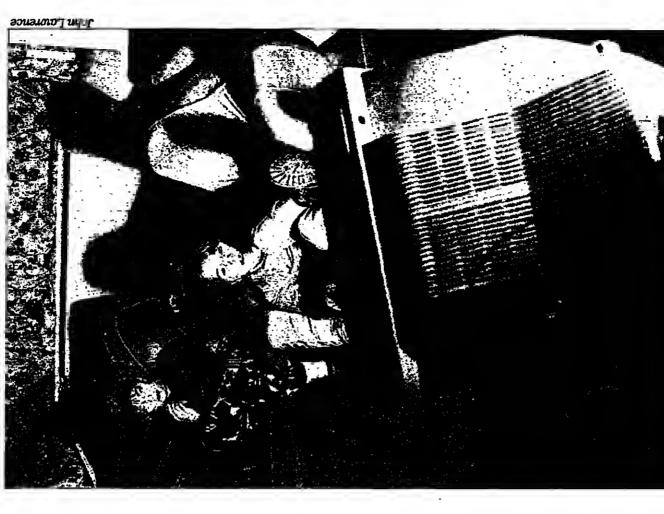
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Why one woman gave up teaching modern languages to children

Behind the scenes with the academics attempting to benchmark degrees





Telly tubbies

How schools and parents can help children fight the flab Page 8

BBC2

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patience and sympathy to students, not revelation. By Lucy Hodges The lecturer of the future will offer

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uvod quality education depends on interaction among people, and the role of technology is to facilitate and aid alusents, not to replace academics " in Derek Roberts"

using the new technology to save on academica. The University of Phoenix in America, e profit-making distance earning outfit, offars degrees on the internet and employs very few conventional iccturers, thereby saving millions of dollars.

Itha, who works in the school of infor-mation of Michigan. All foculty mem-bers teach from a standardised syllabus

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Thus the student will look to the academic for support and encouragement, but no longer for revelation.

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The online truth

Cramming in the quadrangles

Tutorial colleges offer courses to prepare students for both A-level and GCSE exams. By Emma Haughton

unong the daffodils in the college important the daffodils in the college gardena, watching the early morning innilight playing on the dreaming spires—no one can deny that there are nany advantages to being a atudent at 25,000 undergraduatea head home at gaster for their weeks of rest, hundreds if GCSE and A-level atudents arrive in the city for cranmer coursea that now been organised by its tutorial colleges. Not that participants on an itensive GCSE and A-level revialon course enjoy much Sebastian Flydestyle self-indulgence, necording to Paul Gordon, principal of Cherwell lutors, which has run Easter tuition weeks for lie last 25 years. Although tholds its three one-week courses et Heuford ond Jesus colleges, atudents ion't get much timo for what the Chirangle on darantles."

It werns.

Much of their labour is what Mr Gordon describes as "fine-tuning" for the demands of public exams in June.

"The normal school sylabus concentrates on the material, but not how to get it down on paper in a given time," he says. "In part, though, you're being tested on your ability to sit an exam, and thet's the ability we try to develop durter." "There's obviously an element of rachet In being in Oxford," aays Mr Gordon, "and they are living in an Oxford college, which many students like the idea of. Indeed, aome parents sometimes worry that it will distract them, but frankly the students don't have thine. They ere immerated in the course. There's no let-up at all, and no apportunity for distractions,"

attraction for many. For the apring vacallon, St Hilda's college, renowned for its lovely gardens and envlable position by the river Cherwell, plays host to 70 to 80 students from Oxford Baster Courses.

"Students really fike the idaa of being in Oxford." says its principal, Edwin Osborn. "They do seem to find Italinulating living in a college and having the experience of being an undergraduate—although undergraduate—although undergraduate proboby don't work quite as hard!" Indeed, he had found the foretaste of Oxford life has inspired a number of his students to apply to the university for their degree.

Oxford Easter Courses prides itself Mr Gordon la not exaggerating. The a brochure description of the course virtucture looks exhausting lectures. Group aeminars, essay-writing classes, a review of paat examination pspers and mock exams. Reading through the daily schedule for Cherwell's young crammers, who concentrate on one Alevel or two GCSEs during the course of a week, la even more alerming. Working in groups of six or seven, students slart each morning et 9am with an hour's trial examination, and then work right through the day Ill 6.45pm. Even after dinner, they are expected to get their heads down and prepare yet more work for the following day.

"It's very, very inlensive," admits Mr Gordon, "The brochure puts it more bluntly: an early night is recommended, it werns.

level subjects.

"As well as being qualified and experienced teachers the vast majority of our tutors are Oxford grodustes, so the standard of tuition we can offer is particularly high." he says. "But overall, the atmosphere here is highly academic - you can't avoid it. I do think I hat the mystique of Oxford sppeals to atudents and parents. Maybe they feel that some of the magic will rub off on them. It is part of the overall experience that we offer." university for their degree.

Oxford Easter Courses prides itself in the stution groups are confined to two or three students, and total numbers rarely exceed 70 or 80.

"We deliberately try to keep it small," says Mr Oshorn, who has run the courses from home will his wife Jana siace 1983. "It means they can make sure that thair time is only used on exactly what they need and want to do," Thay also stick purely to A-fevel courses. "A-level students are that bit more mature and motivated," believes Mr Osborn. "They really want to do the work, whereas those doing GCSEs are often licked there by their parents." EDUCATION: COURSES

espite the alog, there's no doubt speuding a week in Oxford is a real

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from both state and private schools, and one of the main alms of the tutors – apart from filling gaps in their subject knowledge – is to to try to give them more confidence, especially in the technique of taking exams.

CIE and tha other tutoriot colleges undoubtedly succeed in their aims; all report glowing testinonisls from paat students and their psrents. It's not difficult to see why. Judging by how hard their students are expected to work. Oxford crommer courses are a haptism of fire. Sitting your GCSEs or A-levels must be a doddle by comparison. Unlike other tutorial colleges, Oxford Easter Courses eschewa mock examinations. Mr Osborn, who used to be a tutor at another institution, believes they are self-defeating.

"The students are too tired and too busy, and they have not had a chance to assimilate the material properly yet." he says. "It's simply not fair to assess them like that, And if they don't do vary well, it can really knock their confidence."

Another advantage of coming to Oxford to do your revision lies in the quality of tuition, says John Farquhar, principal of the Centre for International Education (CIE), which runs 30-hour intensive courses in all GCSE and Alevel suphers.

• Cherwell Tutors (01865 242670) is running A-levsi mid GCSE courses from 21 March to 9 April, 1999. One-week study and residence nt Hertford or Jesus colleges costs £495.
• Oxford Easter Courses (01865 311517) is running A-level-only courses from 27 March to 11 April, 1999. One week residential study at St Hilda's College costs £550.
• Centre for International Education, Oxford (01865 202238) runs GCSE and A-level courses from 15 March to 23 April, 1999. One week costs £300, accommodation, which is extra, costs around £100 for a single room.

es aim to cover most of the week, with students work-

STUDENT SURGER VIA TELEVISION

HAM

cent of the books pub year in Britain are no and the Samuel Johns equivelent of an Oscar ingely grateful, in case eyes cont embracof The first

pone or judges.

It is quite terrific news all round, not least for Brillsh academics (though the competition will not be confined to the UK - 'books published in English by writers of any nationality" will be eligible, and quile right too). But, by Dottl shortlisted author), and of prestige. Jun Nauglitle, the morning volce of the thinking classes on Radio 4's Today programme, will chair the first ponel of Judges.

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Irving's reckoning, five of the 10 NCR Prize-whnners were academics. 'Good, scholarly writing,' she says, 'should not remnin within the province of the

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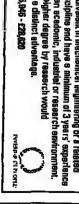


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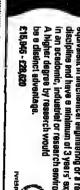
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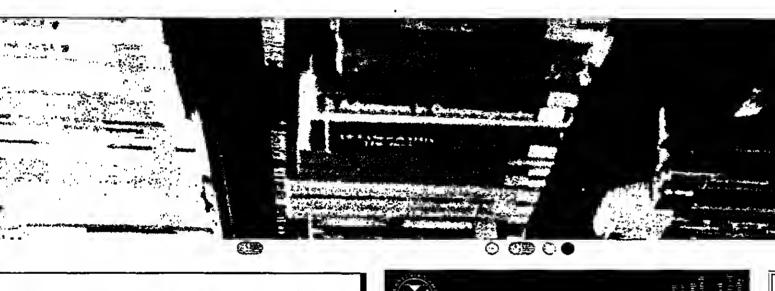
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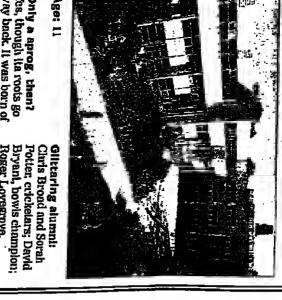
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LUCY HODGES

progress its council has made. By Ben Russell social problems in the Newham schools face some of the toughest country, but Ofsted is delighted with the

and Gloucester

Cheltenham

Inspectors prinise tho Libour-run authority for its unwillingness to tolorate failure and for its "dynamic and imaginative profassional leadership". They say: "It serves the country well in damonstrating, in common with a very small number of authorities inspected so far, that it is possible successfully to challenge the assumption that poverty and ethnic diversity must necessfully to deliure at school."

The East End borough is one of Britain's most deprived oreas. The figures tell it all. Nearly half of all children have free school meals. One in five comes from a single-parent household. Nearly two-thirds come from ethnic minorities and half apeak English as their second language. The area, well to the east of London's Jele of Dogs, is oon

truancy, or petty violence parents to court or we from parents. We take We don't tolerate

the national average on exam league tables, but they are described by Ofsted as being among the fastast improving in the country. Education officers say the seven failing schools will be turned around within 18 months. The percentage of pupils gaining five or more good GCSEs has increased by 41 per cent in four years - from 23.8 per cent in 1995 to 33.7 last year. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching expected standards by English and maths has lespt by more than 35 per cent in the past three years. Both figures are now at national average levels. The transformation has come after a string of reforms which disclared to the contract of the contr

ban them from schools'

of run-down shopping streets, and lines of Victorian houses and tower blocks. The inspectors said: "Schools and children face problems of poor health, indifferent housing with poor or no facilities for study, frequent disturbances to schooling as parents move between rentad houses and often little or no English when they enter school."

Tha borough's schools may be well below

Newbam has put all its senior pupils into a new sixth-form college to encourage lors have co-opied six school governors on to their education connultice and set up a learned wide forum for governors to make

reforming education authorities across Britain. The borough, which launched one of the first education action zones last year, is still in the forefront of education thinking and is consulting on a move to sweep

ing snd is consulting on o move to sweep away the traditional three-term year.

Graham Lane, Newhsm's education is committee chsirman since 1004, says: "We are not atraid to do s hands-on job with schools that are failing and they come out of special measures very quickly. We don't tolerate truancy; we take parents to court. We don't tolerate petty violence by parents; we ban them from achools. The drive to raise standarde really storted three or four years ago, and we've shown a fast improvement. The numbar of children getting five or more GCSEs is at the national average. "Our axam results were bottom of the league in 1989, Now we are 123rd out of 150." The council replaces governors of fsiling schools and takes control itself to turn the situation around. It also operates a com-

sure schools to committee and set up a sure schools' voices are heart. Mr Lane, also education chairman of the Locol (lovenment Association, altributed the authority's success to the high califure of its officers, and politicians' ciear leadership. In Horrison, Newham's Director of Education, acid the crunch came in 1988 when the council commissioned what turned out to be a damning study by the National to be a damning study by the National Foundation for Educotimal Research Two years ago the NFER researchers returned. The authority which has historically spent below its limit in education, has increased spending by nearly 35 per cent in the past six yests. Mr Harrison said: "We help the schools to set targets, particularly important os half of our children have Eng." "Head to cot a language."

"Headtcochers know they don't have to

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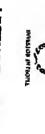
















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inillien Scheme will moke Awards to 300 parents with children of school age within Milten Keynes and the ng area to undertake local history prajects, and esoble these parests to gain a greater understanding of how less information technology (II) at school. Parents will be provided with training and support is a range of juding researching local history and using II to collect and gresent historical information. Parents will qualify to Milennium Follows. is are Invited for a temporary (33 months) post to coordinate on Awards Scheme that is being edministered by University and the Livisg Archive or behalf at the Millennium Commission. The Livisg Archive is a documentary ducation aganisation based in Wolverton, Milton Keynes.

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William of Linuxin

igh standards

r language?" the children who soak up all

を見るると

Philip Meech

Modern approaches to language teaching mean that the days of chanting verbs or even sitting in a isnguage lab are over: Target language is tha order of the day – every word is in the languaga from the moment the public enter a classroom. Here is not the place to debate the virtues of this method, but it has brought more fun into pupils lessons – games, drams, Frand videos are part of lessons in many schools. But if you're teaching in a school where the IT facilities available to you are two clapped out 286s and an Apple Mac covered in an inch and a half of chalk dust, all between five classes, then IT in the national curriculum is a bit of a joke. Booking a proper IT room meant having to grovel to the teacher who is supposed to be in there, and carting books and dictionaries around there for 35 minutas. Drama and games for classes of 30 and upwards in rooms built for 25 pupils required a degree of organisacion that a military commander would be proud of. Ited: with classes that size, in 35 minutes each child would be heard for less than a minute.

Modern approaches to language

Languages teachers often complain of a lack of interest from their pupils. Pupils can be motivated by games, drama, IT and decent books, but only if their teachers are also motivated. Dissochanted teachers produce disen-

Chanted pupils.

Languags teaching is a fight:

With parents who have had no experience, or negative experiences, of language learning at school.

With the media who portray Britain as a nation of poor linguista, and reinforce the week that everyone in the world speaks English if you shout loudly and slowly.

With other professionals who say:

"Why should a child who has difficulties bi English waste valuable time on

these views.

Prormoney to be spent on expensive tiems, such as tape players, videos and software, rather than on library books,

It is little wonder, then, that professionals give up the fight, battle weary, and retire to other jobs, where sparring qualifications are not necessary.

As for me, I have not spoken a word of French since I was lesving my teaching job, and said: "Au revoir, et bonnes vacances mes enfants."

youngsters to stay in education

LABOUR'S INNOVATIONS IN NEWHAM

- The council has published leaflets for parents listing its enam rasults and truancy rates since 1986.
- olence in schoola, als visit all parents children have been from school for four Eighty parents were cuted ovar their

ollege to raisa staying-on.

New system of grants for all
ilxth-formers whose
amilies are on income

y achool has own local cli inspector as part of ality control scheme to tor the parformance of a and teachera.

PASSED/FAILED CORIN REDGRAVE

poor streets

THE INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT

A-Z OF HIGHER

NOTA: NOTA

EDUCATION

Tralleration

Vessibanie schools tace

appearing with his wife, Kika
Markham, in Noel Coward's 'Song
at Twilight' at the King's Head,
Islington – and in 'De Profundis',
which opens tonight at the and author of 'Michael Redgrave Corin Redgrave, 59, is an actor My Father'. He is currently



Birmingham Repertory Theatre

His sisters are the actresses Vanessa and Lynn Redgrave Freeze school: My very first school was a classroom in Westminster School. It was evacuated during the War to Buckenhill, a very large, old farmhouse in Herefordshire. We had been evacuated to Bromyard, three miles sway, and I remember crying with the cold as we walked that long distance. I was three or four years old and must have been there for a year. There were about 20 of us in the class, which included Vanessa, but not Lynn, who was a baby.

a choice between acting and fencing; and I chose octing. Son, you were wonderful My father came up to see me in only one production, when played Horner in The Counts Wife. I was probably in a blin ponic, but he said I'd faugh ilm a tot. taught English and directed the school play. He had acted with my mother (the actress Rachel Kempson) at Oxford. I was taught classics by Theodore Zinn, a wonderful teacher. His classes were a babble of srgument; occasionally, when it went too far, he would cry, which would subdua everyone. I never considered that I would do more than get a place at university but Theodore said: "No, you underestimote yourself." That can make all the difference to a child. I went into the classics and got a scholarship to King's [Cambridge].

St Vicar's: We went back to London in 1944 but I don't think I went to school until a year ofter the war, when I was six and went to o stric prinory school with Vanessa, for onc tern. This was difficult, my father was now a well-known film stnr and we were trealed as oddities. Then, for a yenr, Miss Glascott came to teach eight or ninc of us, including Vanessa, Matthew Guinness I/lec Guinness's son] and the vicar's three sons, in the vicaries of school and teaching.

Sabre rattling: I read English but did very bodly in Prelims

INFERVIEW BY JONATHAN SALE

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of loss. If you lay in the dormitory thinking of home, you'd hear a steam engine going to Paddington and think of all the hisppy people on that train.

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B BLACKWELL'S

u revoir children, 10/EDUCATION

Qualified language teachers are leaving the profession to take up highly paid jobs in City firms, where they feel their hard-won talents will be appreciated. Carol Toms explains why they're going recently left modern languages teaching for an excallent job outside Leaching. It wasn't the money that drova me to leove, but a scries of other factors which are repeated all over the country as good linguists leave teaching. It is o crying shame that teaching. It is o crying shame that teachings who have studied and tendered.

which are repeated all over the country as good linguists leave teaching. It is o crying shame that teachers who have studied and trained for five years should be lost to the education system so easily.

Undergraduates considering teaching inodern languages may be deterred for several reasons: they study for your several reasons: they study for your seers for their first degree, and to add a PCCE may seem a year too long to exist as a student for many people. Debis increase, and although there is the promise of an adequate salary at the end, peers are snapped up by blue

the paymine of an acequate salary at the end, peers are snapped up by blue chip companies after their degree, on salaries of £17,000 upwards – and their peers use their languages to do more thau order un cock s'il vous plat.

Groduatas who spend four years analysing the existential qualities of Camus come down to earth with a bang as they stort their PGCE and learn lots of French for German or Spanish or Italiam that they had never come across before – for instance "turn to page 23"; "where is your homawork?"; "complete tha table on page 89 as you listen to the cassette."

Then they hit the classroom on tesching practice and watch professionals with an excellent command of the language spend 35 minutes trying to teach a bunch of bored teemagers how to book a room in a youth hostel, when the class: a) don't care; c) are never likely to go to France anyway.

Many schools advertise posts for dual this the same schools demanding two languages from their staff that only allow their pupils took two languages is GCSE Inst year. No-one from that school will sit two language GCSEs in 1899 or 2000. This is not an isolated problem, as studying two languages to GCSE lewel is increasingly rare in comprehensive schools.

comprehensive schools.

Get over the initial hurdles of foregoing a huge sslary and a benefits package bigger than free red peus in the City, get on to a PGCE course, survive it and being an unpaid traince, manage to find a job. Then you will begin to suffer the

agement style that lacked care, led to my leaving teaching:

POOR RESOURCES: tape players that were unreliable and liable to ruin a lesson plan at a moment's notice. Fifteen dictionaries between however many classes as were thuetabled on French simultancously. Text books that the chiliproblems which, together with a management style that lacked care, led to

dren sither found ridiculously easy top sets) and unchallenging, or had too much text in foottom sets). Some new books appeared in my last months there, but a pantomime ensued; a rota to share 00 books between 200 children, each child had to have ths same hook each week – much valuable lesson time was wasted.

Getting adequate resources and equipment is a continual heodache for teachers

CLASS SIZES: a favourite moan of teachers this, but teaching 30 children in a bottom set, managing challenging behaviour and sorting out tape players, dictionaries, missing books, etc... simultaneously for 30 children is bound to be more difficult than teaching 20. Opportunities for spoken French, where the bottom sets really shone, were lim-

nspectors bring misery, not

Suppor

props and some of our junior classes are still over 36. But I feel optimistic about the way education is going 41 would feel more enthusisstic if Chris Woodhead was sacked). There is room for improvement, but we are moving in the right direction. for improvement, but in the right direction. S ROWTHORE Dronfield, Sheffield in a grammar school. Although I ragged with most of the comments a made, surely the real experts are the a people who actually teach the vast was majority of children – ie those in nor selective schools.

whom thare seems to bs very little respect from aither staff or children. MRS B KIL.BY Hornsea, East Riding of Yorkshire

YOUR VIEWS

Send letters to Wendy Berliner, Editor, EDUCATION, 'The Independent', I Canada Squore, Canory Wharf, London, E14 5DL, Include a daytime telephone number (fax: 0171-293 2451; e-mail: educ@independent.co.uk) As a teacher of seven-year-olds, I have been excited by the Government's obvious commitment to education. My own class had been reduced from 38 to 28, a vast improvement in the quality of education that I am able to deliver. We have also had three of our 12 rotten windows replaced and new drains. Unfortunately the roof is still held up with pit

term report" (EDUCATION, 31 December), by which exparts commented on the state of education, you included the opinions of only one person actually teaching, and he taught

abla – but to a "demonisad" Ofsted? Has it never occurred to Woodhead why Ofsted has gained sucb a bad

Things are getting batter
I WAS amazed that in the otherwise excellent article, "Labour's end of term report" (EDUCATION, 31

reputation? And just how accountable is Ofsted itself, headed by somebody who said recently that a parent could lagarn all that was needed about a school in an hour's visit?

An inspection should be a constructory a structive, supportive advisory service into a well qualified, well informed and respected inspectorate. If it is not, it fails. Inspectors should be wall chasen, knowledgeable and sensitive in lucal environmental factors as well as professionally efficient. The confrontational and clearly destructive right of Woodhead bimself has been too often reflected in his inspectors, for s

CHRIS WOODHEAD, the chief inspactor of schools and the head of Ofsted, tells us that four of five primary schools were happy with thair inspections (EDUCATION, 6 January).

Some 252 out of the 1,280 schools he mentions were therefore not happy. Of the reachers I know all bar one speak of their inspections leading to anger, the loss of good teachers, nervous breakdowns, severe loss of morals and the depression of pupils/ atudenta. Schools should indead be accountable — but to a "demonisad" Ofsted?

Sixth forms have bolishad and replaced naw sixth-form

uthority ven seats on the

ernors and

America halls

They don't walk to school, they don't play games and their favourite occupation is watching telly: the result is mass obesity, truly a growing problem. By Emma Haughton

IT'S THAT timo of year again. Having consumed muny units of alcohol and several million calories above what is strictly nacassary to keep body and

selection packs, new bikes lying selection packs, new bikes lying unused in the shed, they may wall be more in need of a radical change of lifestyle than you are.

Because, according to a recent Gov-

nutritionists say that inactivity not diet is two years ago;

greatest challenges to public meaning.

The survey results, however, coma as no surprisa to nutritioniata and exercise experts, who ore becoming increasingly concerned about young people's eating and exercise habits. "Obesity is a growing problem," says Dr Barbara Livingatone, lectures in human nutrition at the University of Ulster. "Children's body composition is changing, and it does appear that children's have a with more fat an a third of those aged 16-24 were und to be overweight or obese, day's youngsters are too lazy and uttonous for their own good, it conded, and present one of the eatest challenges to public health. The survey results, however, coma

calories than we did We eat no more

the key to obesity

However, with many pupils now able to go out to the shops at lunch time, reforming school meals may have a limited effect. And, ironically, it seems that when it comes to weight gain what goes in may not be as crucial as the energy subsequently expended. Despite the natioo's expanding walstlina, we are actually eating no more calories now than we did two dacades ago; nutritionists agree that inactivity, rather than dict, in the key element in obesity.

Take walking to school. In the midigroup walked to school; now just 50 percent do. Themagers are evan lazier another government raport found that, in the decade to 1996, 11- to 15-year-olds had reduced their number of walks by 29 per cent - double the fall

W9 E3 L15 T2 T4 192 T6 In3 W6 H0 DE25 L62 T2 P9 T6 In6 H0 Dt5 183 T5 In6 KROTL(+2 ABSPS6 M0 D5812 PPF Bt6 7.7.5 T87. PABT58.

there's no reason to suggast that that trend will reverse."

And, for once, it's not just parents who are to hiama; schools, too, are failing to encourage children to adopt a more healthy lifestyle. Last October, many came under attack from the Government for the increasing proportion of junk food in thair school meals. Around 3 million children have

'Football's tha worst. It's outside end I gat muddy. And it's alweys freezing too.' (Jonathen, 13)

for children 10-20 years ago have been removed," he says, "With so few children walking to school now, many do

WHAT CHILDREN SAY
ABOUT PE research carried Clinical Nutrition

'I hate gemas. I try and gat out of it as often as I can.' n, particularly girle boys with bicycle roads, only one i wed to do so.

A lack of physical axercise, poor diets of junk food, and hours spent in front of the television are

researching childhood obesity. Schools are focusing too much on team games, which are often not the best activities for later life, she feels. "Schools have got to get children going, encouraging them to be more active as children, but olso softing up

"While children's innata fitness ands to keep them healthy, if you ome into adulthood olready overreight, it is extremely worrying to hink where you will he in 50 years' inne. And it's so difficult to treat overweight indults, because it involves shanging eating ond exercisa habits which are by then deeply ingrained. "Everyone — parents, schools, health professionois—has got to take health professionois—has got to take

abluing to store up health problems for our children, now and in the future

iaes the risk of

John Lawrence

m for achool PE develop a good of motor skills.

THE FATS OF LIFE

Ovarweight children ere more likely to becoma

elty increases betes.

WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

SSINDIMARKE

EMMA HAUGHTON

HOME HELP

and dictionaries Encyclopaedias

Slightly more sophisticated, but just see easy to use is The Kids Multimedia Encyclopaedia (GSP 6-13, £19.95); its pleasing balance between clarity and thoroughness makes it on ideal homework tool. But best of all, the publishers seem really to have considered what interests children. There are articles on scouts, fairs and the former pop group Take That, for example, as well as more "serious" brain fodden. If you really want to give your children's grey matter a work-out, however, the specialised Eya-Witness Encyclopaedias (Dorling Kindersley, 10+, £29.90) provide a rigorous depth of information. Science 2.0 covers maths, physics, chemistry and life science with hafiling thoroughness The in creating your own timelines and izzes — although quite why you uld want to do the latter; I'm net too. There is also a handy virtual hilghter pen and sticky notes with ich you can mark text and add com-

planetarium; typa in your location and time zone, and it illustrates the night sky from your bedroom window. "It's really good," he exclaimed, "hecause whenever I look out of my window it's always cloudy."

ا حكذا من الاحل